

Luce begins visit to Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — British Foreign Office Junior Minister Richard Luce arrived from Bahrain Sunday for a four-day visit and cooperation talks with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Al Alawi. Arab diplomatic sources said the two men were to review the latest developments in the 51-month-old Iran-Iraq war, the Arab-Israeli conflict and examine means of broadening Oman-Britain economic cooperation. Mr. Luce was leading a delegation to one of the regular meetings of the Anglo-Omani Joint Commission, which meets every year here and in London alternately. The joint commission regulates and promotes bilateral ties and oversees the progress of enterprises in which the two countries are collaborating. Mr. Luce was accompanied by Stephen Day, head of the Middle East Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth office of the British Foreign Ministry.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
توزيع يومي من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية «الراي»

Shaaban warns of anti-U.S. attacks

TRIPOLI, North Lebanon (R) — The head of one of the main Muslim fundamentalist groups in north Lebanon said Sunday the United States would be attacked on its own territory in the next few days. Sheikh Saeed Shaaban, head of the Islamic Unification Movement (Tawheed) in the northern port of Tripoli, told a rally of supporters without elaboration: "America will in the next few days witness operations against it in its own country and own land to avenge the people of (Israeli-occupied) South Lebanon and Palestine." Speaking in a Tripoli mosque, Sheikh Shaaban said: "No-one can stand against the Islamic tide. It has begun to knock at the White House door, which reinforces itself with concrete obstacles for fear of Islamic attacks." Tawheed last year conducted a bloody fight with a pro-Syrian group for control of Tripoli until Lebanese army troops deployed there in December under a Syrian-backed peace plan.

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Sisco: U.S. plans no major peace move

KUWAIT (R) — The United States plans no major Middle East peace initiative and believes countries in the area have much work still to do themselves, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco was Sunday quoted as saying. Mr. Sisco, on a regional tour sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, told Kuwait newspaper editors the time and conditions were not ripe for "a major new, visible, dramatic, American initiative in the peace process."

Miyake sees no change in Iran stand

TEHRAN (R) — A senior Japanese official said Sunday after talks with Iranian officials he detected no new development in Iran's attitude towards the Gulf war. Wasuke Miyake, director-general of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, earlier had talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Miyake, who arrived in Friday for a three-day visit, will also visit Turkey, Jordan, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

Jackson to appeal to Beirut kidnappers

CHICAGO (AP) — After meeting with family members of an Illinois priest kidnapped in Lebanon, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said Saturday he would make a "moral appeal" for the release of the priest and three other Americans held hostage in Beirut. Rev. Jackson said he was exploring religious and political channels to free the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, the other Americans and a Saudi Arabian diplomat held in Lebanon. But Rev. Jackson said he was not committing himself to a Lebanon visit on their behalf. The 50-year-old Roman Catholic priest was abducted Tuesday in Lebanon by eight armed men who intercepted his chauffeur-driven car.

Nakasone begins Pacific tour

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone flew to Australia Sunday to lay the groundwork for his vision of a new Pacific era. His talks in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand will largely focus on trade and aid, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said. But the trip must be seen in the light of Mr. Nakasone's dream of a Pacific age to succeed the centres of civilisation around the Atlantic and Mediterranean, they said.

Kennedy forced to cancel Soweto speech

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy was forced to cancel a farewell speech Sunday at the end of his tour of South Africa when black protesters threatened to disrupt the event. After being advised by security police and his aides not to appear at Regina Mundi Church in this black satellite city of Johannesburg, Mr. Kennedy was to deliver the address at the home of Nobel Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu but cancelled it altogether. (Earlier story on page 8).

Hussein visits Oman, Qatar today King holds talks in Kuwait, Bahrain on Arab summit

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — King Hussein had talks in Kuwait and Bahrain Sunday, apparently seeking support for an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers to pave the way for a long-delayed Arab summit.

The King's four-nation tour, which will take him to Qatar and Oman Monday, follows calls by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for a summit to endorse their efforts to forge a joint approach to Middle East peace.

Jordan asked the 21-member Arab League to convene a preparatory ministerial meeting after King Hussein visited Saudi Arabia at the year-end.

Saudi Arabia is to host the next Arab summit, originally set for November 1983 but delayed due to inter-Arab differences. Diplomatic sources have said the Saudis were not eager for a summit unless it was assured of success, a view shared by other Gulf states.

Libyan attache killed in gunfight

ROME (Agencies) — A Libyan diplomat tried to shoot his way out of an ambush Sunday but was killed by a gunman who blasted the pistol out of the Libyan's hand and then fled, apparently wounded, police said.

The attack was later claimed in an anonymous telephone call to the Associated Press office in London in the name of the Al Borkan (the Volcano) Libyan organisation.

The same group claimed responsibility for the murder last year in Rome of Libya's ambassador and an attack against a top aide to Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi in Tripoli.

Police said an unidentified woman witnessed the attack from her apartment window and said there was only one gunman. They said Farag Omar Makhyoun, 31, was gunned down as he left his home for the Libyan people's bureau, or embassy, at 8:20 a.m. (0720 GMT).

Police said, quoting the eyewitness, that Mr. Makhyoun was surprised by the gunman but was able to draw his own .38 caliber pistol and shoot back twice.

The gunman continued to fire, knocking the gun out of Mr. Makhyoun's hand and shooting him in the neck, the abdomen, the right hand, right arm, they said.

But the Libyan refused to give up and tried to rush the gunman before his wounds forced him to collapse on the icy road, police said.

The gunman may have also been wounded, police said, because they found blood stains on the street near where he dropped his silencer-equipped Walther PPK.

Police immediately put up roadblocks in the area but reported no results.

Later, a service station employee in the neighbourhood reported that a man bleeding from the shoulder stopped in for gas for his Volkswagen, police said. No other details of that man were released.

In September last year another Libyan, who was not a diplomat, Mohammad Homs, 39, was found beaten and strangled to death in a Rome hotel. A self-styled Mauritanian opposition group claimed responsibility for Mr. Homs's killing, saying he was a Libyan secret agent.

King Hussein's current visit to the Gulf is within the framework of contacts which the King holds with Arab leaders to coordinate Arab stands and serve common Arab interests, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The King, who is accompanied by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, was seen off at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, cabinet members and senior officials.

Before the King's departure, Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent.

Israeli decision expected today on phased pullout

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet began discussing a plan Sunday to withdraw in stages from Lebanon, and a spokesman said a decision was expected on Monday.

"The intention is to finish tomorrow (Monday) and to reach a decision," Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin said after a six-hour meeting of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview broadcast Saturday that the plan before the government called for a phased withdrawal in South Lebanon that would begin in the northwestern sector around the Mediterranean port city of Sidon.

Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio he expected a majority of the cabinet to support the plan, despite the opposition of most of the right-wing Likud bloc headed by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Other government sources said the evacuation was to be completed during the summer, but Israel would not meet Lebanese demands for a detailed timetable.

Mr. Beilin said the cabinet met as the ministerial defence committee, whose deliberations are kept secret by law.

The decision on an evacuation plan was to be adopted before Israel's election.

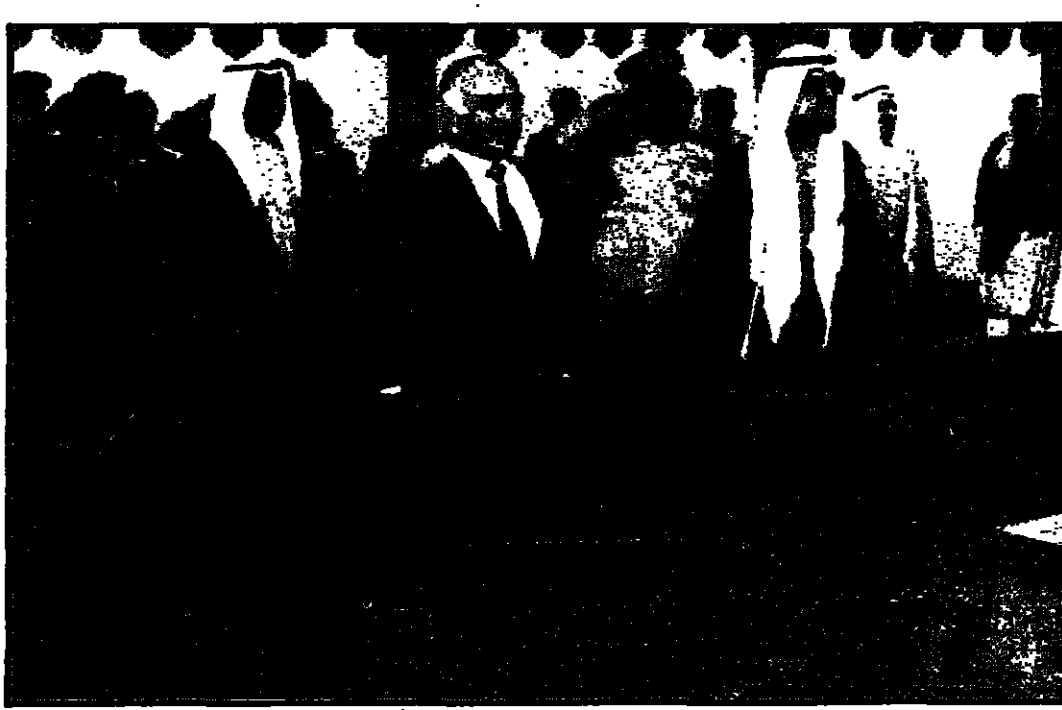
It was the second day of fighting in the hills near Beirut since 200 armed policemen on Tuesday moved into the Kharrub to prepare for the army's deployment. Two people were killed in artillery duels near Beirut on Friday.

Military sources said the army deployed in several Kharrub villages, where PSP and mostly Christian militias have fought almost daily artillery duels in recent months, but stopped short of the Awali to avoid direct contact with the Israelis.

Mr. Karami said all roadblocks along the 70-kilometre coast road between Tripoli and Beirut would be removed before the army took positions there.

Militiamen of the predominantly Christian "Lebanese Forces" now control the road up to the Madfoun Bridge, 40 kilometres north of Beirut, while Syrian troops hold the stretch from Madfoun to Tripoli.

The deployment of the army down to the Awali is aimed at halting factional fighting and putting the army in place to take over the south whenever Israelis leave.



His Majesty King Hussein is received by the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and Kuwaiti beir-apparent and Prime Minister Sheikh

Saad Abdullah Al Sabah (left) upon his arrival in Kuwait on a short visit Sunday (AP wirephoto)

U.S., Soviets have agreed to hold Mideast talks, Israeli daily says

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States has agreed to hold talks with the Soviet Union on the Middle East conflict, as Israeli daily reported Sunday.

In a report from its Washington correspondent, the Haaretz newspaper quoted U.S. officials as saying agreement on the subject was reached during the Soviet-American arms control talks in Geneva last week.

The U.S. previously had rejected any Soviet role in Middle East peace efforts, most recently when Washington rejected a United Nations call for an international conference that would include the Soviet Union.

Israel, which also rejected the U.N. proposal, was informed of the U.S.-Soviet agreement in Geneva, when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met Jan. 7-8 and discussed the global arms race. Haaretz said.

An envoy sent by Mr. Shultz reported to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir last Thursday on the Geneva arms talks.

Both countries will bring the views of their Middle East allies to the talks, the newspaper said. It said

U.S. Under-Secretary of State Richard Murphy will represent the United States in the dialogue on the Middle East, whose date and venue have yet to be set.

The new U.S. position reflects a marked change from its earlier stand on the issue. The concept of an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict — including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — was voiced by Moscow in 1980; and Jordan, the PLO and most Arab countries have welcomed it. Syria has also supported the call and said it would attend such a conference.

In press interviews last year, His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that a rapprochement between Washington and Moscow was one of the few hopes left to improve chances for a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict and called on the superpowers to give the issue proper consideration. During a visit to Amman earlier this month, prior to the Shultz-Gromyko meeting, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat expressed optimism that the U.S. and the Soviet Union will tackle the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Geneva talks and reach an agreement.

Gromyko rules out accord without space arms ban

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said Sunday that no agreement could be reached with the United States on limiting nuclear arms without parallel moves towards banning space weapons.

"If no progress is made on questions of space it would be superfluous to talk about the possibility of reducing strategic armaments," Mr. Gromyko said in a television interview.

Mr. Gromyko repeatedly stressed Moscow's opposition to Washington's plans for a space-based weapons system while summing up the results of his talks last week with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Gromyko also said that the Americans pressed strongly in the meeting to exclude space weapons from new arms control talks.

Mr. Gromyko also said the talks were "very complex in the political sense of the word" and that reaching an agreement on the framework for new arms control talks "did not proceed smoothly."

But, he added, the negotiations "did not of course bang the table or throw out spectacles of the table... (but) they did not hesitate to speak their minds without concern for politeness."

"We regard the results of the meeting (as) positive," Mr. Gromyko said.

He said there was "great pressure" by the American side not to discuss space weapons, but that the Soviet Union said this was "entirely unacceptable."

"The viewpoint that prevailed was the viewpoint that it is impossible to consider either the question of strategic arms or intermediate range nuclear arms without considering the problem of outer space. To be more exact, the question of preventing an arms race in space. The American side eventually agreed to accept this," he said.

Mr. Gromyko said that Mr. Shultz, after returning to Washington, sent Mr. Gromyko a letter saying "the government of the United States intends to carry out what was agreed upon in Geneva and it will keep the commitments assumed under that understanding earnestly."

He said the Soviet Union would "wait and see" whether the United States did in fact live up to the commitments.

"We will fight to the end on this matter," he said.

The United States has said that it will continue its strategic defence initiative programme of research into space weapons, but that the issue is on the bargaining table.

Gulf air distress call dismissed as hoax

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A purported distress call from a crashed airliner in the Gulf Saturday has been generally dismissed as a hoax, airline and airport sources said Sunday.

The call, saying 135 people died when a Boeing 707 with nearly 200 on board crashed into the sea, apparently came from a privately-owned high-frequency radio and not from an aircraft, the sources, quoted by various news agencies said.

In Tehran, the official news agency IRNA said Iranian aircraft searched for a downed plane after an Iranian passenger aircraft picked up the call, but nothing had been found. One report had said the aircraft had crashed off the Iranian coast.

The apparently bogus call sparked off intensive checks by aviation authorities in the Gulf and Far East, but no airline had reported the loss of a plane, the sources said.

Concern was heightened by the frequency of air piracy in the region, which has seen at least 10 hijacks in the past six months, they added.

Kuwait's Air Traffic Control (ATC) superintendent Abdullah Jahar told Reuters Kuwait air traffic control (ATC) had first heard of the apparent distress call from Jeddah ATC in Saudi Arabia at 1.00 p.m. (1000 GMT) Saturday.

Iraq says two ships hit in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq said its warplanes hit two "naval targets" in the Gulf Sunday, one of them large, but there was no immediate independent confirmation of any ship in difficulties.

Iraq has now reported attacks on 10 "targets" in the past week, indicating it is stepping up the shipping war in the Gulf, a spin-off from the 51-month-old ground and air conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Iraq uses the word "target" to describe merchant vessels, usually adding the word "large" when referring to oil tankers.

Reporting Sunday's attacks, a military spokesman in Baghdad said Iraqi warplanes scored "successful and effective hits" against two targets near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal at 12.30 p.m. (0930 GMT). All the planes returned to base, he said.

The spokesman said Iraq would continue its blockade of Iranian ports until the Iranian rulers accept peace and Iraq's right to use the Gulf for its own exports.

Iraq's Gulf oil terminals were put out of action early in the conflict which erupted in September 1980 and it has relied on overland pipelines to export its crude.

Iraq has continued to export from Kharg despite the regular Iraqi attacks on shipping over the past 10 months.

Iraq last reported to have hit two "targets" on Friday and shipping sources confirmed Sunday that the Iranian bulk carrier, Iran Endrad had been hit by an air-to-surface missile that day (See page 2).

Most of the confirmed Iraqi attacks have been on foreign vessels picking up Iranian crude or carrying cargo to Iranian ports. The Iranians have sometimes retaliated with air raids against merchant ships using ports in Gulf Arab countries which support Iraq in the war.

The caller said he was the only survivor aboard the plane, but was unable to identify the aircraft's type, position or airline, Mr. Jahar said.

"I can say it is not true," Mr. Jahar said, adding checks had been made on all scheduled flights throughout the Gulf and the Far East.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli radio ham Micky Gurdus said he had monitored a distress call from a Boeing 707 on a flight from Dacca in Bangladesh to Kuwait. The caller said the aircraft had 197 people on board and 135 had been killed.

Airline schedules showed no flights between the two cities Saturday.

The Gulf News Agency quoted Kuwait airport "radar sources" as saying that the first purported distress signal was received at 1300 hours (1000 GMT) from a person claiming to be sinking with an aircraft in the Gulf waters.

"That person in his radio message said the plane carried 197 persons and that 135 of them were killed while the remaining 62 were alive in the water," the agency quoted the same Kuwaiti sources as saying.

The caller said "I am drowning, I am drowning," gave his location as close to the Iranian coastline and tried to make believe the plane was German, the same sources said.

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Sarvath inaugurates charity bazaar for benefit of Sweileh community centre

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

SWEILEH — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday inaugurated a charity bazaar at the Sweileh Social Development Centre, the proceeds of which will go for expanding the centre's activities and buying new furniture and training equipment.

The bazaar, organised by the social development centre in cooperation with charitable societies, included a display of handicrafts, embroidery, artificial flower arrangements and straw works by the housewives in the town.

President of the Sociology Department at the University of Jordan Mahmoud Barhoum told the Jordan Times that the centre, which was established in 1981 at

the cost of JD 60,000, was built on land donated by the Sweileh Municipality. The centre was the brainchild of Dr. Serri Nasser, the president of the centre, Mr. Barhoum said.

He added that university students have launched a fund-raising campaign during their free time and that they helped to set the corner stone for this pioneering project.

He emphasised the university's interest to improve social development in the Kingdom, especially in residential areas which lack the basic services such as public libraries, children's parks and public gardens.

Mr. Barhoum said that other activities achieved by the university include the establishment

of the Hay Nazzal Development Centre, located at the outskirts of Amman. He said that volunteer students are now in the process of establishing a public library in Sweileh and that they are currently looking for a piece of land for this project.

The Sweileh Social Development Centre has a large children's library, a playground and has a permanent exhibition of embroidery, textile work and other handicrafts. The centre includes training sections which are playing a major role in training women in the town and assisting them to occupy their spare time in useful skills which at the same time generate an income that would raise the standard of their living, he added.



Her Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday inaugurates embroidery for the benefit of the Sweileh Social Development Centre (Petra photo)

Preparations underway for Arbor Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will celebrate Arbor Day on Tuesday and tree-planting ceremonies will be held in all governorates. The main celebration, however, is expected to take place under Royal patronage at Sahab Industrial Estate, south east of Amman. Another major celebration will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The celebration, to be organised by Amman Municipality will take place at four different public gardens and the Queen will participate by planting trees. The four sites will be at Princess Iman Garden, Basman Garden, the Army Garden and the Civil Aviation Garden.

Another Arbor Day celebration will be held near the Dead Sea resthouse under the patronage of Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

The Ministry of Agriculture expects that 30,000 dunums of land will be planted with forest trees and 10,000 more with shrubs and fruit trees. According to Mr. Muti Al Tillawi from the ministry's range and afforestation department, nearly four million saplings will be planted by the public, individuals and various organisations in the current agricultural season. The saplings are given away free to the public to encourage the planting of trees, he said.

Sapling nurseries

According to Mr. Tillawi, the

Ministry of Agriculture produces saplings at its 12 nurseries in various regions of the country and these nurseries have a capacity of producing nearly seven million saplings a year. Mr. Tillawi said that trees have great benefits for agriculture as they conserve water and help prevent soil erosion, but, he added, there are other dangers to trees and agriculture caused by man. He said one of the main dangers is cutting down trees to obtain wood for charcoal and for industry. In 1982, there were 344 cases of illegal tree cutting but this is only a few compared with 1,500 such cases recorded between 1972 and 1981. Mr. Tillawi said.

Another danger to forest trees, he said, is the smuggling of forest saplings which in 1982 registered 177 cases. A third danger lies in animals grazing on land grown with trees, Mr. Tillawi said. He added that this often happens in view of the shortage of pasture

land and in years when there is drought.

A fourth and a bigger danger to trees is fire, Mr. Tillawi said. Thousands of trees are burnt down every year because of fire, caused mostly by vacationers and, in some cases, on purpose, he said. Most fires occur between May and August, that is in the dry season, but sometimes in other months depending on the number of people on holiday and inflammable substances left in the forest regions. Mr. Tillawi added.

According to Dr. Butros Salem, director of the Ministry of Agriculture's information section, Jordan celebrated Arbor Day for the first time in 1939 under the patronage of Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, who attended another celebration at Al Qal'aa in Amman in 1947 after which Arbor Day became an official annual event.

IBRD mission reviews potash company activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting was held Saturday at the Arab Potash Company (APC) between the mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the management of the APC, headed by its managing director, Mr. Ali Nsour. The discussion covered various aspects of the APC's activities, including production and marketing programmes, financial and future development plans.

The IBRD mission is scheduled to spend a week in Jordan during which time the mission will pay a visit to the project site at Safi to tour its facilities. The World Bank has participated in the financing of the project by providing a loan of \$35 million.

Percy conveys Reagan's message

U.S. senator departs following talks with Hussein, officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Senator Charles Percy left Amman Sunday for Europe after holding talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, a statement issued by the American embassy said.

During his meeting with the King, Senator Percy conveyed President Reagan's respect and admiration, the statement said. "Noting the long history of close relations between the U.S. and Jordan, the senator reiterated his commitment for U.S. support of the Kingdom, which is particularly important given the current circumstances in the region," the statement added.

The statement quoted Senator Percy as expressing his appreciation for Jordan's constructive role in the region "and for King Hussein's efforts to promote a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem."

Sensor Percy was recently on a tour in the Gulf region on a fact-finding mission during which he held intensive talks with Gulf leaders which centred on the current

developments in the area, especially the 52-month-old Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Percy, who is a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lost his post to pro-Israeli Democratic Congressman Paul Simon in the congressional elections last November.

The defeat of Mr. Percy, a long-time moderate Illinois Republican Senator was the most significant development in the elections which saw Democrats pick up two senate seats but left the Republicans in control of that chamber.

A report reaching here said that Senator Percy has recently turned down the post of U.S. ambassador to India.

Swedish trade delegation arrives for economy talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade Mats Hellstrom arrived in Amman Sunday at the head of a trade delegation on a three-day visit to further develop and strengthen the economic and commercial bilateral relations between the two countries.

Officials representing several economic and industrial fields in Sweden are among the delegation which is scheduled to meet Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad

Al Anani, Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Bashir, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, Telecommunications Corporation Director General Mohammad Ismail and a combined meeting with the chambers of trade and industry directors. The Swedish delegation will also pay official visits to industrial and agricultural projects in the Kingdom.

Military court sentences embezzler

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Fayez Mohammad Abdul Fattah Al Natour to one year imprisonment for embezzling public funds. The military governor Sunday endorsed the sentence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet hears Obeid's report

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet met in regular session Sunday and heard a report by Transport Minister Farhi Obeid on his recent visit to Egypt. Mr. Obeid briefed the cabinet members on his talks with Egyptian officials on operating a maritime line between Aqaba and the port of Nuweibeh in Sinai in order to promote trade and economic ties between the two countries.

Jordan invited to adult education talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has received an invitation for participation in the fourth international conference on adult education, scheduled to be held in Paris in March. The 10-day conference will be sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Majali discusses postgraduate studies

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday received the executive director for Ph.D. programmes in business administration at New York City University. The meeting discussed the possibility of cooperation in postgraduate studies and scientific research fields. Dr. Majali talked about the university's concentration on setting up postgraduate study programmes at the academic section of the university's faculties.

NRA to attend oil exploration seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a scientific seminar on the financing issues related to oil explorations, scheduled to be held in Athens on April 22. Director of the oil prospecting department at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Kamal Jurcic will represent Jordan at the seminar.

Delegation leaves for conference on refugee services

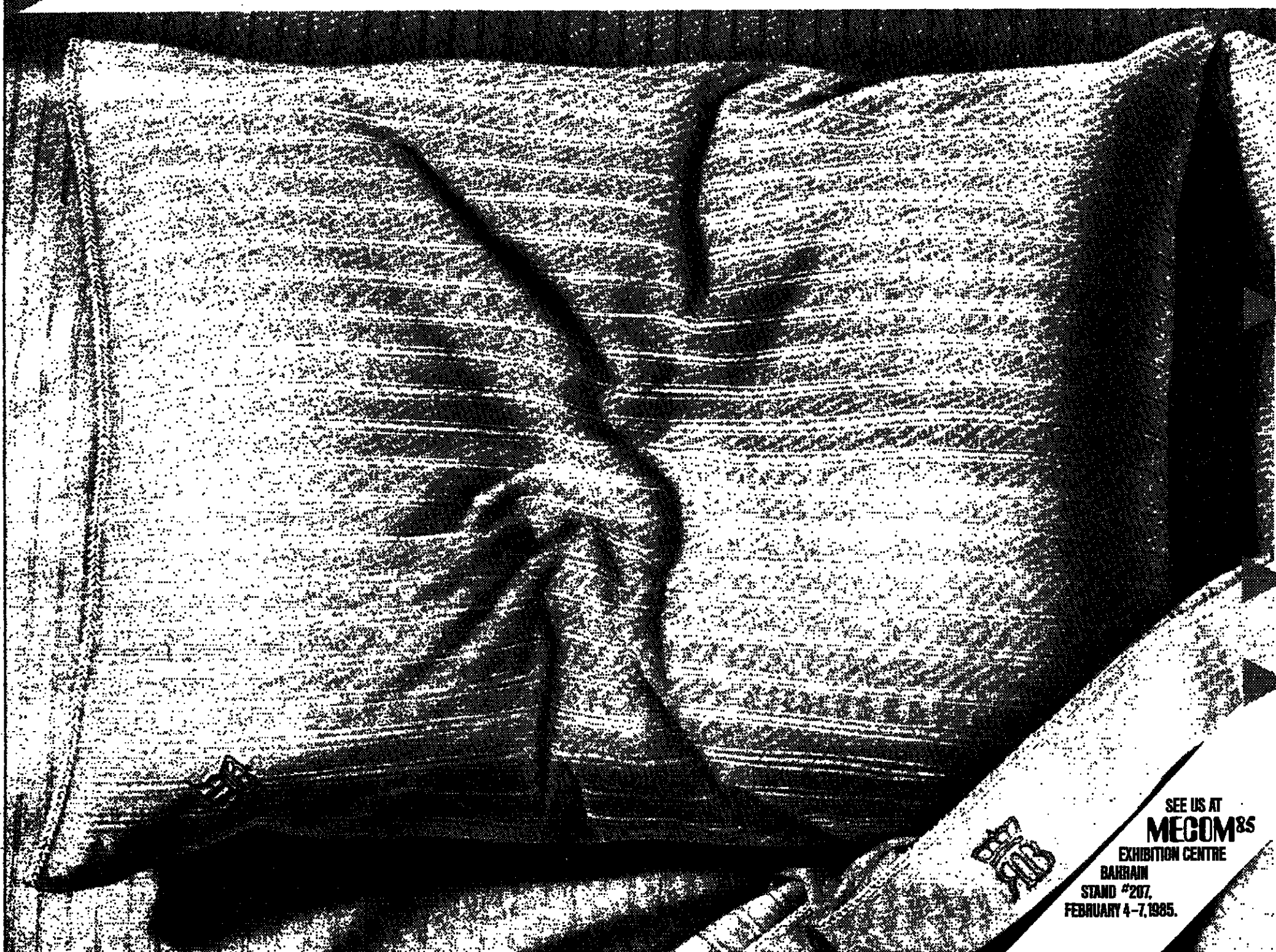
AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees open a week-long conference in Tunis Monday to discuss subjects pertaining to the refugees and the services offered to them by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), according to assistant Under Secretary at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Osama Tabboub.

Mr. Tabboub, who left Sunday for Tunis at the head of Jordan's delegation to the conference, said that UNRWA's recent measures to cut its services due to a deficit in its budget will figure in the meetings.

Mr. Tabboub had said that the Jordanian delegation will submit three working papers dealing with Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, the deteriorating conditions of refugees in Gaza and Israel's drive to demolish refugee camps.

The conference, he said, will also tackle the problems faced by Palestinians in their movements through their employment in Arab countries. The conference, which will be held at the Arab League Headquarters, will refer its resolutions and recommendations to the Arab League Council which will convene in March.

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Northern Telecom (USA)
Dallas

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c/o Balkans Engineering,
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Jordan Times

MPs should have more

SOME 30 members of the Lower House of Parliament have proposed an amendment to the traffic law, enabling them to acquire special number plates for their private cars. "The significance of this move is unquestionable," said a spokesman for the group of 30. "We reserve the right to be equal with the executive branch (in acquiring special number plates)."

Well, we should not be questioning the right of the honourable gentlemen to the embellishment of their private cars with "red", or "red-on-white", plates. It is only that we are asking them to go even beyond this step in demanding their rights.

One area which we can easily identify, where members of the Lower House can serve their constituents better and more effectively, is the need for each and every one of them to have an independent office in his constituency. Such an office, equipped and furnished simply but adequately, could do wonders to facilitate the work of the MP and indeed enable him to serve his constituents much more effectively.

There is no need to go into details in explaining the usefulness of such a project. Many of us know how the system works in other countries and no doubt agree on the need for it here in Jordan. The 30 or so parliamentarians who woke up for their right to acquire special number plates can all too easily legislate to have their own constituency offices, if indeed they seek to prove their independence, representation and concern for the people.

Another requirement of democratic life is for Parliament to vote in its own research programme and study groups. The House's library may have been a good place for some members to do some work there, but it certainly has not been enough for all of them to do outstanding representation of the people's interest. This too is an area where Parliament should discuss and debate its requirements.

It was well and swell that the MPs voted for themselves hefty increases in their salaries earlier on (from JD 300 to JD 600, in one stroke). Now, it is their duty to work full-time, full-speed for their constituents' best interests.

Our citizens should look forward to such a qualitative step. Why should not they, and the government?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: More than condemnation needed

THE ARAB League in Tunis Saturday issued a statement condemning an operation for transporting Ethiopian Jews to Israel and said that Israel will employ the newcomers to settle them in occupied Arab lands. The Arab League, which possesses a large staff of specialists and politicians, has satisfied itself with this statement of condemnation rather than adopting more effective measures to answer this big challenge.

Needless to say, the Arab League reflects the situation prevailing in the Arab World; and because the Arabs are divided, it seems that the Arab League cannot under these circumstances take further steps. Perhaps what it can do is to speed up efforts for convening an Arab summit to study this serious situation and render to the Arab leaders the opportunity to handle their various chronic problems.

The current divisions in the Arab World, and the disputes between governments should not prevent us from meeting at the highest level. The issue of the Ethiopian Jews, the Gulf War and the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon necessitate an immediate meeting of Arab leaders who would positively take more effective measures than issuing statements of condemnation.

Al Dustour: Overall summit is better

GOVERNMENT LEADERS in the Arab countries of North Africa are currently exerting efforts for holding a summit meeting of their heads of state. These countries are trying to find means for solving common problems and adopting common measures to repel dangers and challenges confronting them.

We would have liked to see such efforts made towards convening a summit meeting for all Arab heads of state because we are concerned with achieving solidarity among all Arab countries and ending differences among their governments. Yet the current efforts for this limited summit are appreciated and, if the outcome is positive, such a summit will have its beneficial effect on the Arab countries in Asia, which would be tempted to try a similar summit of their own.

In the absence of comprehensive efforts for holding a summit meeting for all Arab leaders, such mini-summits are a welcome idea. However, major issues confronting the Arab Nation, like the Gulf War and continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and Lebanon, cannot be handled on a limited scale and would require a gathering of all Arab heads of state who can work out a common strategy for the whole nations.

Sawt Al Shaab: Disrupting Israeli plots

THE DEPLOYMENT of Lebanese troops in the Kharroub region and the coastal road south of Beirut is the first step towards breaking the barrier of the crisis in southern Lebanon. The deployment of the army in implementation of the government's security plan puts an end to all doubts about the ability of the Lebanese Armed Forces to ensure peace and security in the country and refutes Israel's claims that the Lebanese army cannot shoulder its responsibilities.

The army can now help end the conflict among the various militias of the South and can prepare for taking over from the Israeli forces after their withdrawal from the territory.

Israel had always been counting on inter-Lebanese differences and factional wars to consolidate its hold on the southern regions of Lebanon. It had tried to perpetuate its presence by wrecking the negotiations at Naqoura with the hope that its terms and conditions would be accepted by the Beirut government.

The deployment of the Lebanese army has now disrupted the plots of Israel and its militias and exposed to the world Zionist attempts to impose hegemony and domination on a neighbouring state.

What price paid for 'Operation Moses'?

By Tareq Masarweh

WE CANNOT believe claims by the Ethiopian military regime that it knew nothing about tens of thousands of its citizens crossing the border into Sudan without the regime's knowledge and approval. It is hard to believe that, specially since the border region is boiling with rebellion, constant fighting and alertness.

We also cannot believe Sudan's statement that it allowed tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees to go by without even checking their identities. Whatever the claims by Europe and the United States of caring for hungry human beings, the Americans and the Europeans have not yet reached a stage of allowing enormous numbers to be re-settled in their own countries. All that they have done to the African

hungry people is to donate flour which costs relatively little, but they have spent fortunes on filming the situation and the aid reaching the hungry to serve their own ends and interests.

Airlifting thousands of Jews from Ethiopia is not as simple a task as the statements of the foreign ministries of Addis Ababa and Khartoum. There must have been a price for this collusion, and the Zionist organisations are "excellent" at handling this and paying the price which the dictatorial regimes in Addis Ababa and Khartoum were so anxious to get. History is full of examples on the relationship between Jewish money and corrupt tyrants...

Thousands of Ethiopian

Jews have now arrived in Israel and the Zionist propaganda machine will immediately launch offensives to convince Europe and the United States of the wisdom of its action:

First, Israel will say that it has virtually contributed to ending the African famine by saving the Jews and doing its part.

Second, it will say that it had wrenched thousands of Jews from the grasp of Mengistu Hila Mariam, the head of the Ethiopian regime who supports the Soviets, and hence it will be able to wrench other Jews it considers hostages in the Soviet Union!

Third, it will say that it needs several million dollars in aid from Europe and the United States so as to absorb the hun-

gry Jews into the Jewish state.

Our knowledge of the might of Israel's propaganda machine and its power of persuading Europe and the United States of its actions tend to increase our indignation against the mean and colluding regimes of Khartoum and Addis Ababa. This Israeli propaganda machine which these "pigmies" have received from the clever "Jewish giants." This machine will reveal falsehoods in the statements of Khartoum and Addis Ababa about their lack of knowledge about the operation or their claim of humanitarian motives that prompted them to allow it to take place.

The Zionist machine had in the 1940s and 1950s painted to

the West a picture of the "poor Jew" who is being persecuted and therefore is in need of help to find refuge in his "forefathers' homeland but it is no more employing such tactics. The picture, as presented now by the propaganda machine is that of a clever and strong Jew who knows how to win wars, how to deal with corrupt people and how to bargain with the major powers over giving protection to their interests in this region which extends from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean...

We are really indignant and angry to see both military regimes in Khartoum and Addis Ababa colluding against us despite the slogans they raise and the principles they brag

about... These thousands of Ethiopian Jews will now fill Israeli settlements built on Palestinian Arab land. These Ethiopians will learn how to pour their hatred against the Palestinian people which have long been subjected to oppression and subjugation.

These backward Ethiopians will serve as the best tools in the hands of Kahane, Sharon and other Zionist terrorists, and will act as whips to crack on the Palestinians and the inhabitants of southern Lebanon. Though we are indignant and furious about what happened, yet we regard it as a lesson for those who still have any hope of or belief in the usefulness of Arab military dictatorships...

Iranian exiles said to plot Khomeini's downfall

By Jean Gueyres

THE ISLAMIC revolution in Iran in 1978 had the effect, among other things, of creating an Iranian diaspora of considerable proportions. The lack of reliable statistics, however, makes it difficult if not impossible to put an accurate figure on the number of Iranians who, since the fall of the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, have gone into voluntary exile while waiting for the situation at home to "clear up".

Estimates of their number vary from 700,000 to two million. But allowing for the fact that all Iranians, whatever their allegiances, tend to exaggerate figures, it may reasonably be supposed that since the revolution about one million people have left Iran for foreign shores.

It is a very high figure when one remembers that Iranians, who by nature attached to their homeland, had little reason, before the events of 1978, to leave a country that gave every impression of economic buoyancy. True, some of them justifiably complained about the Shah's autocratic regime; but as long as they kept out of the labyrinthine intrigues of domestic politics they were left well alone. That is why under the Shah nothing in the nature of a political exodus ever really occurred.

Until 1978, the total number of Iranians living abroad scarcely exceeded 150,000; most of them were students, who formed the bulk of the regime's opponents. On top of that, there were several tens of thousands of wealthy Iranians who lived for part of the year in Europe or the United States, and an unknown number of seasonal workers in the Gulf states, where there is a large population of Iranian origin.

The Iranian colony in France then consisted of only some 6,000 students, and a few hundred retired businessmen and civil servants who had taken advantage of the oil boom at the beginning of the 70s to buy homes on the French Riviera or in Paris — especially on the newly developed Front de Seine complex, where a number of tower blocks were built partly with Iranian capital. At that time Iran Air offered special weekend trips to Nice as an alternative, for the wealthy, to their usual Black Sea resorts.

It was the wealthier classes who first thought of exile when the Shah's regime began to crack at the seams in the middle of 1978. When it became clear that the monarchy's days were numbered, they left the country in droves, taking with them all their valuables.

But it was only when the Shah had left Iran and Khomeini had come to power that the real political exodus began — when all those, whatever their political colouring, who opposed the Islamic republic scrambled for the border.

After passport control at Tehran airport was made stricter, they were forced to call on the services of highly paid professional smugglers, who did a roaring trade on Iran's borders with Pakistan and Turkey.

By that time, aspiring exiles could no longer leave with their personal belongings, which they often had to sell off in Iran itself at a fraction of their value in order to meet the ever greedier demands of the smugglers and "travel agencies" that would provide them, for fees sometimes running into thousands of dollars, with safe conduct to their places of destination.

Most of them ended up in the United States, and more particularly in the Los Angeles area, which is now believed to have an Iranian population of about 250,000. France, on the other hand, has "only" 40,000 at most. Why, then, has Paris become, over the last five years, the hub of political opposition to the Khomeini regime?

There are two main reasons for this. The first has to do with what one might call the "Neauphle-le-Château syndrome". Opposition leaders have settled in Paris in the rather naive belief that, since Khomeini from his base at Neauphle-le-Château in the Paris suburbs orchestrated a successful propaganda campaign for his cause which eventually led to his return to Iran, they will be able to do the same.

In December 1979, the Shah's niece, Princess Azadeh Shafik, interviewed by the Washington Post at her Paris home, Villa Dupont, said that she would eventually fly home to Tehran just as Khomeini had done; the countdown had begun, as she put it, the only difference being that she was based in Villa Dupont, not Neauphle-le-Château.

The openly proclaimed aspirations of the combative princess, who had the excuse of being young and inexperienced, were nevertheless echoed by other opposition leaders in rather more sophisticated terms. But what all of them failed to see was the enormous difference between their own predicament of being forced into exile by a victorious revolution, and that of Khomeini, whose stay in Neauphle-le-Château was merely the last lap of his triumphal course to power.

The second factor that helped to make Paris the base of the Iranian opposition was France's increasingly pro-Iraqi stance: ever since the former Iranian President Baat Sadr and the Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi arrived in France in July 1981, the French government has become one of Baghdad's main arms suppliers and therefore, whether intentionally or not, the Iranian regime's chief enemy.

thus been given more or less a free hand in France. They do not feel bound to act with the discretion that Paris normally expects of political refugees, and have openly called on their fellow citizens to rebel, just as Khomeini himself did in the past. They have every reason to be happy with their choice of Paris as a base for hostilities against the Iranian regime, even if it is not ideally placed geographically.

Many ordinary political refugees, on the other hand, are less than delighted to have chosen France as their "land of asylum". Following the French government's decision to cut down the number of immigrants, their situation has radically changed. Only two years ago, those who succeeded in getting out of Iran could get a French entry visa within 10 days. Nowadays, if they are lucky, the same visa takes several months to obtain unless they have a recommendation from one of the opposition groups recognised by the French government.

Those applying for political asylum resort to numerous devices to get into France. Some have entered via Spain, which until recently did not require Iranians to have a visa, either crossing the border illegally or entering with a three-month tourist visa, whose renewal is never insisted on. Another ploy is to obtain a transit visa involving a change of planes in Paris, and to "vanish" between Roissy and Orly airports.

But the number of illegal Iranian immigrants has diminished sharply as a result of the extraordinary accumulation of obstacles placed in their way once they enter France. The French government's relatively liberal policy vis-a-vis political refugees is now nothing more than a distant memory.

With the sudden influx of Southeast Asian refugees, the French authorities have been snowed under with thousands of applications; owing to staff shortages and lack of funds, they can take up to two years to be examined.

Some Iranians are flabbergasted to discover that there is no proper reception organisation for them when they arrive in Paris, and complain that other categories of refugees (such as East Europeans, Turks and South Americans) are more fairly treated than they are.

An academic from Tehran, who had graduated brilliantly from the Sorbonne, returned to Paris two years ago as a political refugee; he claims that it was only then that he discovered French bureaucracy in all its splendour: he spent days in police and government buildings grappling with "the indifference, not to say contempt, shown by French officials towards the poor outcasts that Iranian intellectuals in search of asylum have now become". Many intellectuals chose to

come to Paris because France, in their eyes, stood for certain ideals.

The academic in question (who has since sorted out his problems) is in a particularly privileged position because he speaks perfect French, unlike most of his Francophile compatriots. The latter are quite unable to cope with the many and highly complex difficulties they have to overcome before they can lead a more or less normal life in France.

Totally involved in their own problems, often separated from their families, and traumatised by the upheavals that led to their leaving Iran, they find it hard to understand why the French authorities make it so difficult for refugees to get political asylum.

The grant of Frs 1,200 (about \$125) they get from the government every month for one year after obtaining a refugee's card is scarcely enough to pay for the rent of a small bedsitter, let alone food. So what often happens is that three or four of them have to share a tiny room on the top floor of a block of flats without a lift in some remote and inaccessible suburb.

In order to survive, they have to count on the generosity of more fortunate friends or on financial help from one of the opposition groups based in Paris — which involves a degree of political commitment that some are reluctant to undertake. Another possibility is undeclared work for office caretaking or cleaning firms, which are only too willing to take advantage of them.

But obtaining a political refugee card does not mean the end of the applicant's troubles: for some time now, the authorities have been refusing to issue a residence permit unless the applicant can supply a pay slip. Many exiles are therefore having to be content with a temporary visitor's permit, which needs to be renewed every three months — and only after the applicant and his family have spent a whole day queueing and filling in forms at police headquarters.

According to one academic who spends his spare time helping colleagues and advising them how to solve their problems, most Iranian refugees who have chosen to settle in France belong to Iran's intellectual elite: "Their bewilderment is in direct proportion to the hopes they had placed in France. I know of a well-known theatre producer from Tehran who has not been able to afford to go to a single play since arriving in France, of journalists who are having to take on unpleasant manual jobs and can't even buy one newspaper a week, or writers who are unable to do any reading or writing because they are sick with worry about the future. All such intellectuals, doctors, engineers, researchers and artists expected to broaden their knowledge and experience when they came to

France. Instead, they are mouldering away in their lonely suburban ghettos. Most of them say they were more in touch with what was going on in France when they were back in Tehran than they are now."

In the circumstances, it is not surprising that more and more Iranian refugees are trying to leave France in the direction of milder climes. Some have even decided to return to Tehran despite the risks involved. Others again have turned to suicide as a solution. Those who remain, and who are thoroughly demoralised on a personal level and totally uncommitted politically, feel nothing but contempt for the small circle of political exiles who, in their view, do nothing but waste their time and energy in factional squabbling, instead of uniting to bring down the regime they left behind in Iran.

Despite their divisions, leaders of the pro-monarchist organisation that have proliferated in Paris over recent years are convinced that they can eventually bring about the return of the monarchy in Iran. One of these, Shapur Bakhtiar, head of the Iranian National Resistance Movement (INRM) and the Shah's last prime minister after being one of his chief opponents for many years, believes the process to be inevitable: "Our best ally is the Khomeini regime, which in the eyes of the Iranians has completely discredited the idea of a republic in any form," he confidently tells the many journalists who visit his closely guarded residence in a Paris suburb.

Over the years, the "republican" Bakhtiar, who had often said he agreed to become the Shah's prime minister only in order to hasten his departure, has become an out-and-out royalist. When Mr. Bakhtiar resurfaced politically in Paris in July 1979, he called for "a new and genuine referendum" so that the Iranians could choose freely between a monarchy and a republic.

He now says he fears such a referendum would be "manipulated, as is customary in Third World countries like ours". He favours free elections aimed at setting up a constituent assembly, which would, he is certain, opt for a constitutional monarchy.

Mr. Bakhtiar's main rival, Ali Amini, who heads the Iranian Liberation Front (ILF) and was also once prime minister under the Shah, has adopted more or less the same stance. Under pressure from the Crown Prince, Reza Cyrus, the two leaders signed a joint agreement in July 1983 calling for the return of a constitutional monarchy, thus putting an end to their public bickering. But infighting has continued.

Ali Amini himself has managed to keep out of the fray. No one questions his good faith — after all, he has always favoured a constitutional monarchy. After retiring from active politics in 1961, he caused a sensation by being the first to suggest (in an interview

with Le Monde in 1978) that the Shah should step down for a time in order to save the monarchy and rid his entourage of the "brothers, sisters and other hangers-on who have taken advantage of the regime for the last 15 years."

Although Mr. Amini is recognised as a sincere liberal with no personal ambitions, who sees himself as a "coordinator" and "unifier" of the opposition, others of its members, whether pro-Bakhtiar or not, criticise him for giving too free a hand to Shapur Bakhtiar, secretary-general of the ILF, who is regarded as being a little too "unconditionally monarchist" after being a left-wing opponent of the Shah in his youth. His conversion is thought to be all the more suspect in view of the fact that he is the nephew of Hossein Fatemi, Mohammad Mossadegh's foreign minister, who was executed in 1953 on the Shah's orders.

However that may be, Shapur Bakhtiar is now proud of being an "ultra-monarchist". Unlike many other monarchists, he refrains from criticising the Pahlavi era, "the most remarkable in our history". He is particularly scathing about Mr. Bakhtiar, and refuses to be regarded as his ally.

"He's not consistent," says Mr. Fatemi. "He can't criticise the Shah's regime while at the same time remaining loyal to the 1906 constitution. If we are to work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust, he must accept collective leadership — which is something he is quite unable to do. He wants to become Iran's General de Gaulle, his sole saviour. In other words, he sees himself as the Shah's rival." Mr. Fatemi, who is proud to call himself "fundamentally counterrevolutionary", believes that the right-wing monarchist opposition is the only one with a chance in Iran.

In the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the two rival organisations did not join in celebrating the anniversary, on August 5, of the 1906 constitution. Mr. Bakhtiar took advantage of the absence of his "allies" to attack his detractors in the ILF, who, he said, "want to out-Herod Herod".

Mr. Bakhtiar regards himself as someone who, on the contrary, has always remained faithful to his ideas: "After all, I've always been Mossadegh's heir, and what he always favoured was a constitutional monarchy." In fact, the leader of the INRM is forced to speak with two voices in order both to satisfy the requirements of his programme to restore the monarchy and to allow for the reservations of the "republicans" in his movement, who joined it partly out of personal loyalty to him, but mainly because they did not know where to turn after the collapse of the former National Front. They do not challenge the monarchist line advocated by their leader, but are keen to have guarantees that Prince Reza will not follow in his father's footsteps — Le Monde.

LETTERS

It takes two to laugh

To the Editor

SOME OF the newscasters at Jordan Television will do better if they keep their views to themselves while reading news rather than irritating the audience with uninvited comments and smirks. Are they trying to prove themselves the Cronkites of Jordan? The other day a newscaster was heard as saying he preferred car races. Immediately after broadcasting an item on dog racing. Who asked him what his preference was, may we know?

We do appreciate a sprinkling of humour in the otherwise drab life, but not when it is presented with a smirk becoming too personal. If newscasters think such presentations help boost their "popularity", they could not be much off the mark of being called dumb.

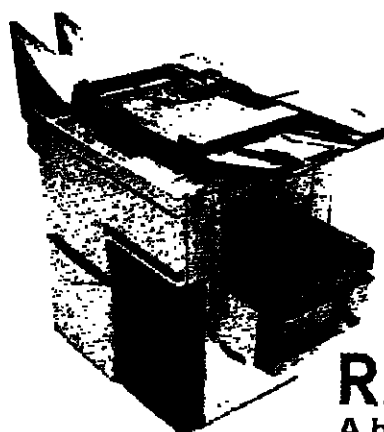
Maram Asad,
Amman

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A bright Look At The Future



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Increasing exacerbated tragedy of the homeless

Latin America

By Jesper Mørch

The problem of abandoned and street children is a global one which concerns us all. Their number seems to rise as countries become more and more urbanised, and big cities like Calcutta, Nairobi, Marseilles, New York and Bogota are monuments to their plight. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the problem is considered by many representatives of government and the private sector to be one of the most serious social concerns of our era. At the same time, many Latin American countries have been pioneers in alternative services for street children without families and preventive, community-based programmes for children working in the streets. Nowhere is quite as much being done to try to solve the problem. The rest of the world, in this sense, has a lot to learn from Latin America. Following is a report on this phenomenon in Latin America by UNICEF publication Ideas Forum.

The impact of the world recession

FEW ARE tempted to estimate the exact numbers of the many millions of boys and girls in Latin America that we call street children. Discussions have often centred around the number of 40 million, with some arguing that it was too high and others that it was too low. A report published by the Association of Children's Court Judges of Brazil in July 1984, however, states that more than 30 million children live in the streets of Brazil alone. This estimate would suggest that putting the number for all of Latin America at 40 million is now a conservative assessment. The Brazilian estimate, for example, represents an increase of 90 per cent in three years. It seems fair to say, then, that today the numbers of street children in all of Latin America and the Caribbean (up to 18 years) probably exceeds 50 million.

It is important to stress that these children are not necessarily boys. Girls may not be as visible in the everyday street life. But they are there. In great numbers. And increasingly so. Any serious attempt to deal with the issue must therefore take this basic fact into account.

Clearly, the economic crises which have struck Latin American countries in recent years have aggravated the situation of street children. The migration of thousands of families from rural areas into the cities has accelerated at the very time when urban poverty has worsened in both extent and degree. It is little wonder that burgeoning city slums daily produce more children who are forced to struggle for their families' survival as well as for their own. And unfortunately, it is unrealistic to assume that we can invent instant programmes which will take them out of the streets and the market places. The income brought in by a child worker may make the difference between a family remaining together as a unit or not. If the family does fall apart, that child and his brothers and sisters

are likely to slide into complete abandonment.

Natural and man-made disasters have further aggravated the situation. Floods on the west coast and drought on the east coast of South America have both sent families fleeing for the promise of the city. Civil strife in a number of countries has caused many thousands of children to become orphaned, abandoned, dislocated, or otherwise destitute.

Who are street children?

Attempts have been made to establish categories among the children in order to try to elaborate specific strategies for responding to their various needs.

The first, the children on the street, is by far the largest of the three categories and consists primarily of working children who still have family connections of a more or less regular nature. Their focus in life is still the home, many attend school, most return home at the end of each working day, and most will have a sense of belonging to the local community in which their home is situated.

The second group, the children of the street, is smaller but more complex. Children in this group see the street as their home, and it is there that they seek shelter, food, and a sense of family among companions. Family ties exist but are remote, and their former home is visited infrequently.

The third group, the abandoned children, may appear to form part of the second group, and in daily activities are practically indistinguishable. However, by virtue of having severed all ties with a biological family, they are entirely on their own, not just for material but also for psychological survival, and therefore require a very different approach.

Essentially, what is sought for abandoned children is a new family of some kind, often in a creative form. For children of the street, a strengthened family is the priority, or if this is not possible, a substitute family. For children on the street, the working children, pre-



Common sleeping conditions in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro (UNICEF photo)

ventive action is needed to keep them from becoming children of the street or completely abandoned. Such preventive initiatives must see the child as a member of a family which in turn is part of a community — with direct contact at all levels. Such projects must also seek not to take away the child's work, but to give it as well as the child a new dignity. Work need not be damaging, exploitative, and abusive if it is made appropriate to the child's age and development, adaptable to educational opportunities, accessible for health and nutritional services, and directed towards training for a happy and useful future, which of course includes sound employment.

The causes of child abandonment

As suggested above, the principal causes of child abandonment — and in many cases of child neglect, abuse, and exploitation — are certainly related directly to the rapid advance of industrial growth and the persistence of rural and urban poverty. The cycle, for the family, is usually migration to the city, profound urban slum poverty, and family disintegration beginning first with the abandonment of the family by the father. Progressively, often follow the deterioration of moral values, problems of alcohol, prostitution, dependency of abandoned mothers on serial male partnerships and the rejection of these mot-

hers' children by the so-called "stepfathers". Violence is common in the lives of children whose families are trying to survive under any or all of these conditions, and is a principal reason for children fleeing their homes in favour of the streets.

If a child is left to the streets and cannot subsist on earnings he or she must turn to other means for his or her survival. Among these means are theft, acts of violence, and prostitution. Exposure to the vicious circle of the street leads to an expert education in the art of survival and a growing anti-social stance fostered by the resentment and distrust of the society that has rejected him or her. So he or she turns to drugs.

Yes, the use of drugs — be it marijuana, bazuka, shoemakers' glue, gasoline, paint-thinner or whatever — is a common occurrence among street children, especially amongst the abandoned. They have little to lose but life itself, which all too often has already lost all value. Shoemakers' glue particularly is easily obtainable and cheap, and is a big business for older street dwellers who package it for easy concealment by a young purchaser — in a baby food jar or juice can, for example, which can be hidden in a sock or inside underwear.

The physical and mental damage done by such drugs is dreadful indeed and becomes progressively worse with continued use. The child who daily escapes the cruel reality of a miserable existence through drugs gradually has re-

duced contact with reality, and often commits "imprudent acts" such as robbery, prostitution, physical attack, or even murder and suicide.

But as serious as this particular problem may be, it is obvious that the very deep problems within family and community must be solved first before life will become worthwhile enough for these children not to seek out glue or gas or paint-thinner in order to relieve the burden of the horrible reality of their lives. Glue sniffing becomes as repulsive to a winning child as it was compelling to the loser.

New hope

Although the situation of many millions of street children is very serious indeed, there is nevertheless hope of seeing real change on behalf of these children within our lifetime. Latin America is showing the way. In countries like Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, a wave of empathy, understanding, and determination amongst the government, state agencies for child and family welfare, social workers, the churches, voluntary organisations, universities, and beyond is resulting in programmes that are gradually turning into people's movements. In these countries, the problems of street children and abandoned children are probably among the worst in the world. Yet it is also in these very same countries that we find the greatest concern and the greatest hope for the future.

Randa Habib's Corner

Billionaires never swing?

MY EDITOR called me at my office in the agency on Sunday and asked me: "Randa, is your corner ready?"

— "No..."

— "Quickly then, you have to send it because page five is ready... only your column is missing."

After hanging up the phone, I paused behind my white papers and dreamed.

Today, I just cannot decide what to write. Not that subjects are missing. Thank God, no, for as long as life goes on, there will always be something to say, praise or condemn. No, this was not my problem. In fact, the crisis I faced was because of the subject which I felt inclined to write about.

I would like — without hurting too many people, because I was often accused of being too sarcastic — to talk of snobbishness, one of the characteristics which is becoming more and more dominant in the evenings and social gatherings in our society.

This gentleman I want to tell you about made some money, well, a lot of money. "He is a billionaire..." one found herself obliged to whisper in my ears while I was only asking about his name.

So, this gentleman is a tycoon, one among others. Madam, is sitting not far away, and as the spouse of a billionaire, she took the necessary pose.

When the evening ambience got warmer and everybody started to laugh and dance, our couple did not budge, being contented with putting on a condescending, sardonic smile. But things got worse when someone dared to ask the gentleman and the lady to join in the dance.

An expression of horror appeared on the face of the lady, who made obvious gestures to her husband to decline in case he was considering to fall into the temptation (horror!) of dancing.

They insisted again, but the couple explained to everybody that "they" can in no circumstances dance, sing or laugh like everybody because in fact "they" are not like "everybody." "Our social position, you understand..."

This is when I felt I must write about it and that together we must wonder: When one becomes a billionaire does this mean that he must become rigid and austere? Or is it that this is the way to show that one is "different"?

If that was the case, I do not want to become a billionaire.

Norway faces big drop in citizenry's numbers by early 21st century

By L. Erik Calonius

OSLO — Like many fathers, Lars Ostby has paped his office walls with his children's crayon drawings: reindeer, snow-capped mountains, and houses with smoke curling from their chimneys.

Mr. Ostby is clearly proud of his two kids, but at the suggestion of having a third he smiles and shakes his head. "Two is enough," he says. He doesn't have the time or energy for another, he explains.

Neither does his wife, who has a job of her own.

Mr. Ostby, who happens to be an analyst in the Norwegian department of statistics, represents the average Norwegian family man. A hundred years ago, the average Norwegian couple had four or five children. Twenty years ago, the number of children per woman had declined to three. But now, that number has dropped to about two.

Future tumble

As a result, Norway is facing the first population decline in its history. Mr. Ostby traces the nation's growth on graph paper, starting in 1720, with the population climbing steeply to its present 4.1 million. Only during the few years of the Napoleonic Wars, when Norway took a beating from both Sweden and Britain, does the upward line wobble. But reaching into the first decade of the 21st century, the nation's population is expected to falter, and then take a rather steep tumble.

Norway isn't alone. Birthrates have fallen throughout non-Communist Europe, except for Greece and Ireland. In 1968, Sweden was the first country to slip beneath the 2.1 children-per-woman rate needed to keep population steady. In swift succession came Finland, Denmark, West Germany and Switzerland. By the mid-1970s, England, Belgium, and the Netherlands also had followed, and by the late 1970s, France, Norway, and Italy had joined the club. Recently, Spain and Portugal have, too.

Norway is second only to Iceland as the most sparsely populated land in Europe. But if the birthrate stays at the current 1.7 children per woman, the total population could decrease to three million people by the year 2100. And if the birthrate falls to the current low in Europe (West Germany's 1.33 children per woman), the Norwegian population could decline to 1.6 million by that year. That was the approximate population in 1860.

Government inducements

To encourage people to have more kids, a government committee has suggested a \$1.2 billion programme. Provisions include a \$164 million package for extended maternity leave, \$588 million for full nursery school coverage, and \$176 million for recreational centres or longer school days for seven-to-nine-year-olds. Other suggestions are likely to be made in a major government study due out this spring.

But Norwegian officials are skeptical about throwing money at the problem. Similar programmes in other European nations have persuaded young people to have

children sooner, but not to have more of them. One Norwegian legislator complained, "I'm concerned about declining birthrates, but those who can do something about it (parents) aren't."

There is nothing inherently wrong with a smaller overall population, a recent Norwegian government report says. The report concludes: "Within reasonable margins, the number of people there are plays an insignificant part in the development of the society."

Problem of age distribution

But there is concern that a smaller number of young people may be left to care for an increasing number of old people. And that burden, Norwegian Prime Minister Kåre Willoch warned recently, could cause the birthrate to drop even further, actually imperiling the society.

Other concerns are that businesses will have fewer young recruits. Small communities also may be affected by shrinking population, says Oslo University economics professor Preben Munthe. "Their survival may be very difficult," he says.

Among the more immediate concerns is the pool of young people available for military conscription. "When we get into the 1990s, there will be a numerical decrease," says a Norwegian defence spokesman. "Now we use 70 per cent to 75 per cent of a particular age group. We have set up very high physical criteria." But adjustments will have to be made to broaden the acceptable pool, although "everyone doesn't have to meet the requirements of an infantryman." One of the adjustments is a plan to attract more female volunteers.

Experts still do not understand the birthrate decline. The development of the birthcontrol pill is an obvious factor, but it is considered to be more the instrument of contraception than the reason for it. Increasingly, analysts are looking at social and economic reasons.

In Norway, for instance, couples in the 1800s who had four or five children were making a wise economic choice: Norway was a country of small farms. "Children were part of the workforce," says Mr. Ostby. "They had a positive economic value."

Even when there weren't enough small farms for every son, opportunities existed overseas, and the birthrate remained strong. Between 1860 and the end of the century nearly a million Norwegians sought their fortunes in America.

During the bleak 1930s and World War II, the Norwegian birthrate dipped below two children per woman. But when the war ended, it rebounded, climbing to three children in 1965. Then, rather suddenly, it plummeted, and in 1974 fell below the two-children-per-woman line on statisticians' charts.

One theory is that the increasing presence of women in the work force has affected childbearing. Since 1972, the number of Norwegian women joining the work force has increased 25 per cent. At the same time, the number of children borne by women has decreased 28 per cent. — The Wall Street Journal.

Rising toll of infertility is source of large-scale emotional anxiety

By Jennifer McKay

LONDON — For any couple who want to have children, difficulty in conceiving a baby or completing a pregnancy safely is a source of anxiety and heartbreak. In some countries it may also be a source of shame and a reason for divorce.

Yet the problem is surprisingly common, according to Dr. Pramilla Senanayake, medical director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She says that in many countries the number of couples who are affected by infertility or impaired fertility, is rising.

The incidence of venereal disease and of repeated illegal abortions in some regions of the world, and the tendency in some developed countries for women to delay their first pregnancy until later in life when they are less fertile, may be among the reasons for this.

In tropical Africa, where infertility is most common, there are communities in which almost a third of couples are childless without wanting to be. And in Britain it is estimated that one in 10 couples will have difficulty conceiving a child.

Fortunately there is now increasing recognition of the distress caused by infertility and the extent of the problem. At the recent International Conference on Population held in Mexico City a Declaration on Population and Development was made which stated: "Expanded research should... be undertaken in human reproduction to solve problems of infertility and sub-fertility."

This declaration was welcomed by Dr. Senanayake who says that although the IPPF is best known for the help it offers couples who want to avoid too many pregnancies, the federation is very concerned for couples who suffer the distress of involuntary childlessness.

IPPF first established a policy on infertility in 1978 and since then it has highlighted the problem in several of its publications. In many countries its member associations are advising and assisting infertile couples. That is why, at a recent meeting of the federation's international medical advisers, in New York, the subject of infertility was high on the agenda.

The panel said that many of the conditions which lead to impaired fertility are preventable and th-

ought that much could be done, particularly by family planning associations and health workers, to help reduce the number of couples who can't have children.

They recommended, for example, that efforts should be made to combat the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, to provide good obstetric care where this is not already available, and to pro-

"One fact not often recognised is that male factors are responsible for about a third of all infertility. Much less is known about male problems, but the most common causes of male infertility are low concentrations of sperm in the semen, abnormal sperm or genital infections."

vide contraception so that women are not tempted to resort to induced abortions.

Although claims have been made that some contraceptive methods can permanently affect a woman's chances of bearing a child, the IPPF's advisers concluded that no such link has been convincingly established. They recognised that the use of the injectable contraceptive, Depo-Provera, may cause a delay in the

return of fertility, but this does not extend beyond 18 months after the woman stops using it.

They thought that couples who have difficulty conceiving may benefit from counselling. They can be taught about the best time in the woman's cycle to have sexual intercourse or about how the woman's body signals, including temperature and consistency of

the cervical mucus, could guide them towards her most fertile period.

One fact not often recognised is that male factors are responsible for about a third of all infertility. Much less is known about male problems, but the most common causes of male infertility are low concentrations of sperm in the semen, abnormal sperm or genital infections.

For women the problems are

better understood, the main ones being infections which damage or block the fallopian tubes, hormonal or ovulation disorders or abnormal growth of uterine tissue outside the womb (endometriosis). The last two are the most common causes of infertility in the developed world, while infection is the more likely culprit in the developing world.

Infertility caused by the after-effects of infection is the most difficult to treat. Pelvic inflammatory disease is the most frequently found infection and is usually the result of gonorrhoea, or other sexually transmitted diseases. Syphilis, too, can affect childbearing by infecting the fetus in the womb and causing its death.

This is one reason why the rapid spread of sexually transmitted diseases is so worrying. In many areas of the world the incidence of gonorrhoea has reached epidemic proportions and it is one of the most common diseases in both developed and developing countries. Estimates suggest that in Nairobi, for example, seven per cent of the population has the disease.

Of course there are other causes of infertility such as poor nutri-

tion, diseases such as tuberculosis or malaria, the use of drugs, exposure to environmental pollution. Childbirth of abortion, particularly where these have taken place in unhygienic conditions, can lead to infertility.

IPPF's panel of experts from seven countries made suggestions about the various clinical techniques which can be used to help infertile couples, when prevention has failed. But at the same time they recognised that diagnosis and any subsequent treatment is a complex process, which may require facilities and expertise not readily available to many couples, particularly in poorer countries.

In the words of Dr. Senanayake: "At the moment the results of treating infertility are often disappointing. So it is important not to build up false hopes in couples who are seeking treatment."

Where treatment isn't successful, she says, health workers and family planning associations may be able to help the couple to try to come to terms with that fact and to advise about adoption, if the couple sees that as a suitable alternative. — People News/Feature.

Governments restrict imports; 'higglers' rush in to fill the gap

When economic difficulties force Caribbean countries like Jamaica and Guyana to restrict imports, the "higglers" — unofficial traders — rush in to fill the gap. Canute James reports.

KINGSTON — The main road through the shopping plaza of Half Way Tree in uptown Kingston is lined by a row of makeshift booths covered by blue plastic.

They are the retail outlets for a new type of entrepreneur which evolved as the island's financial difficulties worsened.

The booths contain a range of imported consumer goods, mainly clothes and shoes. In contrast to their more established competitors in air conditioned stores a few feet away, these traders suffer the heat and the dust with stoic indifference.

But they have their clientele, and competitors they are. The nearby shopkeepers have waged a wordless war against these "higglers" — a war which intensified when their status was elevated, in typical government jargon, to that

of "informal commercial importers."

Rising unemployment and periodic shortages of consumer durables and food have provided the stimulus for the growth of this parallel economy. It is a Caribbean phenomenon, but unlike their counterparts in Guyana at the other end of the region, Jamaica's higglers — or at least those who have followed the rules and are properly registered — are legal.

With the Guyanese government maintaining a long list of banned items in an effort to conserve fast dwindling hard currency, the country's small traders run the risk of being on the wrong side of the law on both leaving and re-entering the country.

Like the Jamaicans, however, the least that is needed to start is modest capital and market. The

market is almost always there. The initial capital is for an airline ticket.

For the Guyanese, the ticket could be to any one of the relatively affluent neighbouring countries — Trinidad, Barbados or Brazil. For the Jamaicans, it is Miami, Panama, Puerto Rico and supposedly impoverished Haiti.

Because of lack of hard currency to purchase goods overseas, the seed-corn for the Jamaican traders includes rum, preferably aged and therefore more expensive, Jamaica's famed Blue Mountain coffee, which commands a price four times that of other coffees, liquors and cigars.

For the Guyanese, purchasing overseas for the local market is dependent on how much gold the trader can take out of the country. Mr. Forbes Burnham, the president of Guyana, recently said gold smuggling was costing his fragile economy about \$360 million a year.

What is taken back for sale dep-

ends on the state of demand in the domestic market. Guyana's list of banned items ranges from bread and other products made from wheat flour, through fruits to baby food.

Jamaican higglers clearly regard shoes and shirts as sure-sells. But they thrive during the many shortages of basic foods. A recent absence of rice from the island's supermarkets coincided with offerings from higglers at J\$5 (\$1.21) per pound — five times the officially controlled price. And it could be bought only if it were "married", in nuptials organised by the trader, and involving perhaps a tin or two of condensed milk or mackerel.

As in any other business, the minnows soon become separated from the whales. The Guyanese big fish sometimes arrive to buy, armed with cash. This is exported illegally, having been bought, also illegally, at a black market rate of between three and four times the official rate. They supply the domestic market with motor vehicle parts and accessories, including tyres.

Getting through — or rather around — customs officers is a national game. But there are some who will pay the import duties because they can corner a seller's market at prices which are tolerated because of desperate need.

The Jamaican whales, of course, do not occupy the plastic covered sheds. The fruits of their endeavours find themselves on the shelves of well established shops.

Jamaican business leaders recently said that smuggling was costing local industry between J\$800 million and J\$1 billion (\$193.7 million and \$242.1 million) per year.

A threat from the government to seize all illegal imports found in shops, and levy heavy fines on the owners, has led to a rash of sales in Kingston stores.

Despite the questionable leg-

ality of the traders' operations, state-owned shops in Guyana have from time to time displayed goods which have been imported by the small traders.

In any showdown with the law — or with big shopkeepers — the traders and higglers are likely to have the edge in popular support. Despite the high prices they are the lifeline for consumer goods to ravaged economies prone to shortages.

The rewards for enterprise could not be that bad. "From what I bring in and sell, I buy a house up there," said Daphne, waving her hand in the general direction of nearby hills, covered by palatial residences.

Sitting on a wooden stool at the back of her humid, plastic covered booth, she refused to disclose her surname. "I rent the house to a man for J\$4,000 a month, and I use that to send my three boys to high school" — Financial Times news feature.

McEnroe, Lendl clash in Masters final

NEW YORK (R) — Ivan Lendl battled back from a 5-2 deficit in the last set to beat Jimmy Connors 7-5, 6-7, 7-5 Saturday and set up a clash with John McEnroe in the final of the Grand Prix Masters Tennis Championship for the third consecutive year.

Czechoslovak Lendl's pulsating triumph, after he was within two points of defeat in the ninth game of the final set, followed top seed McEnroe's surprisingly easy 6-1, 6-1 rout of Sweden's Mats Wilander in the other semifinal match.

By running off the last five games of the best-played, and most exciting, match of the 12-man tournament, third seed Lendl reached the final for the fifth successive year.

His victory also foiled Connors' bid to reach the final for only the second time in 10 Masters appearances.

The winner of the best-of-five-sets final will receive

\$100,000 and the runner-up \$60,000.

With most of the capacity crowd of 18,741 at Madison Square Garden exhorting Connors on, he appeared to have victory in his grasp when he went 30-15 ahead while leading 5-3 in the third set.

But Connors netted a low forehand volley, drove a forehand long and Lendl drilled a forehand placement down the line to pull back to 5-4 down.

Lendl then held serve to love to draw level 5-5, broke at 15 on three Connors' errors and another forehand down the line, and served out at 15 to end the two hour 56 minutes match.

During his comeback from 30-15 in the ninth game, the Czechoslovak won 15 of 17 points as Connors appeared to wilt under his powerful ground strokes.

It was a surprising turnaround since Connors, once ahead at the climax of a match, rarely loses his momentum. Lendl, by contrast, has frequently appeared to lose his resolve and concentration.

But on Saturday Lendl played his best tennis in adversity, electing to go for winners rather than play conservatively as he did in losing to Connors in the U.S. Open finals of 1982 and 1983.

Given his overwhelming dominance on fast indoor courts, the 25-year-old New Yorker was expected to defeat Wilander on the medium-fast synthetic carpet at Madison Square Garden. But the ease with which he handled 20-year-old Wilander, who is at his

best on clay, stunned a crowd of about 15,000.

From the third game of the opening set, Wilander was never in the match. Both the games he won were on service — in the second game of the first set and the first game of the second set — but both times he had to stave off break points.

Wilander's two-handed backhand, his best shot, failed him repeatedly as he was kept off balance by McEnroe, who varied the pace of his ground strokes and attacked the net only when opportune.

Frustrated by his inability to sustain an effective ground stroke assault, Wilander began to attack the net in the second set. But more often than not he did so behind approach shots that lacked sufficient depth or angle, leaving himself vulnerable to McEnroe's precise ground strokes.

Arroyo retains IBF title

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — American Harry Arroyo unleashed a barrage of right hands in the 11th round to floor and then stop Terrence Ali of Guyana and retain his International Boxing Federation (IBF) lightweight title Saturday.

Arroyo nailed Ali with a straight right to the chin in the middle of the ring about a minute into the round. Another right to the chin made Ali's knees buckle. Arroyo chased him into the corner and landed four more solid rights to the head.

Ali knelt and took a knockdown count from referee Tony Perez. After Perez resumed the action, Ali showed no signs of fighting back, took another flurry to the head, and Perez ended the bout at one minute 16 seconds of the 11th.

Ali, a native of Georgetown who lives in New York, failed in his first attempt to become the first fighter from Guyana to win a world title. His record fell to 24

wins four losses and one draw with 10 knockouts.

Arroyo, from Youngstown, Ohio, is now 26-0.

Ali asked his supporters not to be disappointed.

"I hurt him but he kept his cool. I hit him with my best punches and he took them and then he did what he had to do to win the fight. But don't be disappointed, I'll be a champion some day," he said.

Ali controlled the early rounds with a pressing style and drove Arroyo into the ropes with a solid overhand right midway through the second. Arroyo slumped along the ropes and brushed the canvas, and Perez ruled the punch a knockdown.

Ali also cut Arroyo under the chin with a fourth-round flurry but seemed to lose his aggressiveness in the sixth. Arroyo, realising Ali was not charging, took control behind a solid jab, left hooks to the body and short rights.

The right hand accounted for the 11th round barrage.

Lowly Avellino inflicts first defeat on Verona

ROME (R) — Italian league leaders Verona suffered their first defeat of the season Sunday, 2-1 to lowly Avellino, as wintry weather again disrupted the league programme.

Verona, who have led the table since the first game, saw their lead at the top narrowed to one point after Inter Milan leapt above Torino, 1-0 losers at Roma — thanks to a 1-1 draw at Ascoli.

Avellino, who stayed in 11th place despite their win, went ahead in the 32nd minute with a goal from a South American textbook. Peruvian winger Gerónimo Barbado passed to Ramon Diaz of Argentina who slotted home into the corner of the net.

Verona fought back with a goal by Luciano Marangon in the 38th minute.

Navratilova into semifinals

WASHINGTON (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova sailed into the semi-finals of the \$150,000 Washington Women's Indoor Tennis Championships, but second seed Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia and third seed Wendy Turnbull of Australia were eliminated in quarter-final play Saturday.

Navratilova crushed fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-0, 6-4, Mandlikova was upset by unseeded American Kathy Rinaldi 6-4, 6-2, and Turnbull lost to American Zina Garrison 6-2, 7-6.

Fourth seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria also advanced to the semifinal round with a 6-1, 6-4 win over American Kathy Jordan.

Taking every opportunity to rush the net, Navratilova, the number one women's tennis player in the world, dominated the first set, allowing only the fourth game to reach deuce.

Sukova rebounded in the second, tying the set 3-3, but consecutive service breaks in the eighth, ninth and 10th games gave the Czechoslovak-born American the set and the match.

Rinaldi, the surprise of this year's tournament, eliminated Mandlikova, ranked third in the world, with an effective arsenal of groundstrokes and passing shots.

Mandlikova made many unforced errors during the match, most on drop shots which failed to clear the net. Rinaldi, who is ranked 23rd in the world, played a near-flawless second set to take the match.

In the opening match of the day, Turnbull, 32, failed to hold service in three of her first four service games, while making numerous net and volley errors. Turnbull recovered in the second set but Garrison outlasted her fifth-ranked opponent in the tie-breaker 7-4.

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- Offers must be handed over to chief clerk at Ma'an Station not later than 1200 o'clock on Saturday, 16-3-1985.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

TENDERS' NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tenders which are part of the Educational Projects sponsored by the World Bank.

A. Fourth Educational Project:

Tender No.	Title	Tender Fees
9/85	Basic Training W/S	JD 10,000
10/85	Diesel Mechanics W/S	JD 5,000
11/85	Woodworking W/S	JD 5,000
12/85	Electric W/S	JD 5,000
13/85	Instrumentation W/S	JD 5,000
15/85	Telecommunications W/S	JD 5,000
16/85	Basic Fittings	JD 10,000
17/85	Agriculture & Hort. W/S	JD 5,000
18/85	Apairy	JD 5,000
19/85	Electric Hand Tools	JD 3,000
20/85	Wood working Hand Tools	JD 3,000
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B. Third Educational Project:

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Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders' documents from procurement division at the Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education starting Jan. 14, 1985 against the payment of the above fees.

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Prominent Lebanese attacks state on worsening economy

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon Saturday set a customs rate of six Lebanese pounds to the U.S. dollar, government minister Mr. Nabih Berri said.

Mr. Berri said the cabinet made the decision at a meeting Saturday which discussed among other subjects the critical war damage to the Lebanese economy.

The six pounds to the dollar rate will not apply to cars, luxury items or imports that competed with Lebanese products, Mr. Berri said.

The Lebanese pound has fluctuated considerably in the uncertain political situation, sometimes by nearly 10 per cent in a day.

Meanwhile, former Lebanese finance minister Mr. Elias Saba said that the structure of Lebanon's war-battered economy is on the brink of collapse and the government is unwilling or unable to save it.

Mr. Saba, now chairman of Allied Business Bank, made his sombre assessment as the cabinet prepared to meet on the worsening economic crisis.

The country's economic plight can no longer be considered only in terms of severe recession, runaway prices, plunging currency, rising unemployment or a fragmented market, he told Reuters.

"What is at stake now is whether the institutional structure of the economy will collapse or not."

"I am not sure the cabinet is aware of the gravity of the economic situation, or is willing or able to do anything to redress it," Mr. Saba said.

President Amin Gemayel warned the cabinet on Wednesday of a "dreadful deterioration" in the economy, which could trigger a "revolution that would spare no-one."

His remarks may have been

prompted by a gloomy central bank report on the economy's performance in 1984, the text of which appeared in the leftist newspaper As Safir on Thursday.

It estimated that inflation rose to about 30 per cent. The deficit in the balance of payments was over \$1.4 billion and the public debt increased to over 30 billion Lebanese pounds (\$3.2 billion).

Mr. Saba said the next six months would show whether Lebanon's economic structure could survive. At risk, he believes, are the currency, government finances and the banking system.

Until recently the Lebanese currency absorbed the shocks of war with remarkable resilience, partly because it is well covered by central bank gold reserves of more than nine million ounces.

But continued political instability has combined with a deteriorating economy to produce a corrosive loss of confidence among small savers as well as big investors.

"The big money is already out of Lebanon pounds. But now the little guy with intermediate or short-term money is going to get out too," one financial analyst told Reuters.

Mr. Saba said public fear about future inflation had begun to sap the normal functions of the Lebanese pound.

He said it was no longer "a store of value," because "many Lebanese have transferred their savings into foreign currency accounts, predominantly dollars."

It may soon also lose its function as a unit of account in Lebanon's free exchange economy, he argued. "Prices may no longer be quoted in Lebanese pounds—not just prices of goods, but also wages and salaries."

Mr. Saba said government fin-

ances are on the edge of ruin.

"In 1984, the estimated budget deficit was three billion Lebanese pounds. The actual deficit was nearer 10 billion," he stated.

An error of this scale over a 12-month period in a total budget of 12 billion Lebanese pounds was a sign of "a collapse of the government budgetary set-up," Mr. Saba declared.

The absence of proper accounts means the state cannot tell if the discrepancy was due more to a shortfall in expected revenue or to runaway public spending.

Last October, the government ordered a crackdown on militia-run ports that had drained state revenue for years. But recently customs revenues have fallen again.

Even the banking system, which has adapted better than other sectors to disruptions caused by fighting and foreign occupation, is now under strain, Mr. Saba said.

Previously banks were cushioned because they are linked to all parts of the economy. "Now when all sectors are hit in turn, you are ultimately going to feel this in the banking sector," he said, adding that the central bank last year stepped in to save a medium-sized bank from collapse.

"The central bank is now assisting two or three banks and there are more to come," Mr. Saba said.

He said the Lebanese economy had been hit by the world recession and the downturn in oil prices, which led to a fall in remittances from Lebanese working in Arab oil states.

But long years of political and military upheaval are the main culprit for Lebanon's economic woes. "We are now paying the price of war that we have postponed paying for eight years," Mr. Saba said.

'Cheap oil threatens conservation planning'

WASHINGTON (R) — Falling oil prices are stifling incentives to make more efficient use of energy, posing a long-term threat to the world's environment and its economies, a private study has warned.

Although the world has made great strides in using energy more efficiently over the past decade, mostly because of surging prices, the current oil glut is already slowing conservation efforts, Worldwatch Institute, Washington-based research group, said Saturday.

"The reduction in energy prices is a direct result of the success of conservation," the group's study said.

"Unless prices are stabilised, the current situation could start a new cycle of energy consumption growth and rapid price increases," the report warned.

Unchecked by the conservation measures that are available today, the study said energy use would more than double in the next 40 years. But the world's resources may not be able to accommodate such a rise, it said.

Also, one result would be a bigger threat to world forests through a larger acid rain problem, it continued.

But, conservation could easily avoid a doubling in demand, it said, adding: "Simply by slowly adopting existing measures, the world could cut the projected energy demand growth rate almost in half—from 2 to 1.2 per cent per year."

Mr. William Chandler, its author, said fuels should be taxed when their prices fall to discourage consumption and help finance government budget deficits. Minimum efficiency standards for cars, buildings and other items should be set.

The study found a huge potential for conservation in industry and manufacturing, particularly steelmaking.

The study said free-market pricing of energy has generally worked best to encourage conservation. It found that countries that do not subsidise prices, such as West Germany, Sweden, France, Italy and Japan, are the most efficient users of it.

Countries such as India and Brazil that subsidise these prices, and particularly those with centrally planned economies, such as China and the Soviet Union, tend to use far more energy than necessary, the report said.

UAE encourages more mergers among banks

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for finance and industry, Mr. Ahmad Humaid Al-Tajer, said he hoped the takeover last week of the Emirates National Bank by the United Bank of the Middle East (UBME) would encourage more mergers among banks in the country.

He said the move by the UBME, controlled by the Dubai government, was part of a Dubai policy to support the banking system and strengthen the country's local banks.

The UAE central bank has for several years had a policy of encouraging mergers among local banks in a bid to bolster confidence in them, but this is the first to have taken place.

With more than 50 banks and over 300 branches serving a population of 1.1 million, the UAE is widely regarded as one of the most overbanked economies in the world.

The minister said in a statement published Saturday in Emirates newspapers that the central bank policy could be achieved by either merging the assets of banks or through the purchase by one bank of another's shares.

For the first time, Mr. Tajer officially spelled out the extent of support extended by the central bank to the UBME when it saved it from collapse in November 1983.

He said the bank extended facilities worth 1.3 billion dirhams (\$354 million), a figure in line with earlier unofficial estimates, to support the UBME before the Dubai government acquired 73 per cent of its shares.

East German, Kuwaiti officials discuss trade

KUWAIT (R) — A top-level East German mission had talks Saturday with Kuwaiti officials on ways to boost trade and economic cooperation.

The visiting delegation, led by Construction Minister Wolfgang Junker, arrived Friday night for a five day visit during which it is expected to sign cooperation accords in aviation, telecommunications, and health and educational services.

Officials said a joint economic and technical committee, made up of East German experts led by Mr. Junker and Kuwaiti officials led by Commerce and Industry Minister Jassim Al Marzuq, Saturday studied ways to develop trade and economic relations.

Mr. Junker also had talks with president of the Kuwait chamber of commerce and industry, Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Saqr, which covered prospects for joint construction projects.

The visiting minister met the director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Mr. Mohammad Al Imadi Sunday. On Monday he will meet the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Saudi share prices fall as oil revenues decline

BAHRAIN (R) — Share prices are falling in Saudi Arabia as falling oil revenues hit the country's private sector, bankers and share brokers in the kingdom say.

Banks, which took over responsibility for the share market on Dec. 23, say trading volume is still lower than when it was run by private brokers. But after initial hesitation people have begun to buy and sell shares more freely through them.

The change comes at a time of weakened confidence in the share market. Lower oil income has meant lower government spending which has hit private firms in some cases severely.

The system, regarded by bankers as still in its infancy, came into effect over 18 months after a royal decree ordered the transfer of dealing from the hands of the private brokers.

Saudi banks now have a share department at each branch for customers. When a request to buy or sell is received the branch forwards it to its central share dealing office in Riyadh, which calls on other banks to complete the deal.

Bankers cite the decline in the shares of the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), the largest traded company, as an example of share market weakness.

Offered last year at an initial 680 riyals (\$190), the shares are now around \$70 (\$250) two years ago have since fallen by half.

Response to an offering by the National Industrialisation Corporation, completed late last month, was weaker than expected, although the final returns have not been announced.

Bank shares which were trading as high as 900 riyals (\$250) two years ago have since fallen by half.

Commenting on the fall in share prices, Saudi minister for industry and electrical power Sheikh Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Zamil said: "The main reason is their big initial rise, lack of sufficient published information on company activities, accounts and budgets, and the hesitation of some local banks to continue a policy of making loans for the purchase of shares."

"As for SABIC shares, I think the main reason for their decline at present is that SABIC is the only company whose charter limits its individual ownership to 1,000 shares," he told Al Riyadh newspaper in an interview.

"The basic aim of this condition was to spread the shares of SABIC among the greatest number of citizens. The result was that large dealers in the market... were unable to buy large amounts of SABIC shares," he added.

Banks say the trading system is cumbersome and the process of completing a deal may take three or four weeks. Until an exchange floor or electronic system is developed so all dealers can see who wants to buy and sell, it will be hard to match purchases with sales, they say.

One banker said it is possible now for a sale to be made at one price as one at a different price is being made elsewhere.

No official figures are yet available on trading volume but the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency is monitoring the system daily and will probably publish figures later in the year.

Bankers said the system was apparently intended to increase regulation of the market, following the disastrous 1982 stock market crash in Kuwait.

Private brokers will have a negligible role in the future, both bankers and banks say. Brokers still have customers, but must now complete their deals through the banks which get one per cent commission from buyers but nothing from sellers.

China plans to modernise aircraft industry

PEKING (R) — China aims to modernise its plane-making industry, adapt it better to civilian needs and use foreign expertise to revamp domestically-produced airliners, the economic daily reported Saturday.

It said Aviation Industry Minister Mo Wenxiang told executives they must reform not just the production system but also management thinking.

While continuing to guarantee production of military aircraft, the industry must pay more attention to the civil sector's Mr. Mo said.

"We must unite our own production with foreign advanced technology, in particular using foreign cooperation to develop improved versions of civilian aircraft such as the Yun-7, Yun-8 and Yun-12," the minister was quoted as saying.

Defence Minister Zhang Aiping has ordered the armed forces and military-related industries to throw their weight behind the national drive for economic modernisation.

Meanwhile, China's Yunnan province has bought two Boeing 737-300s for its own airline, the first order for the U.S. firm.

The southwestern province bordering Vietnam will operate the 149-seat planes on domestic and international services after they are delivered in November and February next year, the New China News Agency said.

Japanese on verge of invading American home computer market

LAS VEGAS (R) — The Japanese are on the verge of invading the U.S. home computer market for the first time, and they are expected to bring with them a standard designed to entice new consumers into the digital world.

The standard is MSX, a software operating system which enables all software programmes and equipment developed for one manufacturer's MSX machine to be used with any other MSX brand.

"MSX should create a whole new market here because for the first time you don't have to be a computer hacker (expert) to set up and work a system," said Mr. Jan Lewis, a computer analyst for Infoproc.

"It will be as easy to use as a videocassette recorder."

MSX was developed by Microsoft Corporation of Bellevue, Washington state, which has licensed the system to 15 Japanese manufacturers — including Sony, Hitachi, JVC, Canon and Yamaha as well as to Philips of the Netherlands.

All the Japanese firms are sel-

ling small, eight-byte computers in Japan that work with a television set at prices of under \$200, a market dominated in the U.S. by Commodore.

The more bytes (groups of binary digits) in a computer, the greater its capacity.

MSX computers have been a huge success in Japan, where more than 450,000 have been sold since their introduction in June 1983, according to Microsoft.

In Europe, around 150,000 have been sold since they came onto the market last summer.

The Japanese have adopted a cautious stance towards the U.S. market and none will say definitely when, or if, they will introduce MSX products to the United States.

Some are hinting, however, that U.S. consumers will be able to buy MSX by next Christmas. Thirteen MSX vendors displayed their products in Las Vegas last week in a joint presentation with Microsoft at the winter consumer electronics show.

Mr. Nobuyuki Idei, general

manager of microcomputers for Sony, said his company would enter the United States with the MSX in August, if it decided to enter at all.

Mr. Kay Nishi, vice-president of Microsoft's Far East division and a developer of MSX, said he expected the Japanese vendors to start taking orders in June at the consumer electronics show in Chicago.

"The Japanese are being very timid," said Mr. Luc Sala, publisher of several microcomputer newsletters and books. "They do not want to enter the United States until they have a proven product and they are sure of the market opportunities."

Some analysts said the Japanese might be hesitant because the demand for low-performance, eight-byte machines is fading in favour of more powerful 16-byte computers.

Commodore was a victim of U.S. consumer disenchantment with the under \$500 computer market when it saw sales of its model 64 drop off.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYMAL

ENDOM

NUDEAS

EMBLUF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: AN "OOO" - "OOO" (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: NEEDY PERKY SHIMLE RATION

Answer: What life was for the guy who spent all his time at the "hugles" spot—JUST "MEET" & DRINK

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is one of the most productive days you can have of a business nature and in which long-time benefits will follow and flow even though you may not clearly see just how at this time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A good day to see bigwigs who can assist you with some project that is vital to your welfare. Talk intelligently.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go along with the views of allies today since the planets favor them at this time. Some new contact from a distance can help you now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can now make work plans with fellow workers that can bring fine advancement in the days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can see how to put some talent you have to work to your great benefit, and bigwigs can also be of help to you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Those who dwell with you may have different ideas than yours, but try to come to a workable arrangement with them.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Talk over plans with partners you want to continue with for a long time to come. You can get some special talents to work now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Financial affairs should be first on the agenda and then get property improved in your way. Listen to the ideas of a family member.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can advance very quickly now through that plan you have formulated. Get in touch with experts who can of great help to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make better plans and don't talk so much and go to advisors for any assistance you may need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have good judgment now and should go after what is important to your welfare. Have fun and be happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you want your career work to run very smoothly, it is best to gain the assistance of a couple of bigwigs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Gain the aid of bigwigs in order to make that new plan you have worked very efficiently. Show that you have wisdom.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can easily understand how to make some interest work well and last for a very long time, and profit from it by allying himself, or herself with bigwigs. One who will not be easily influenced by others, so be sure to give as fine an academic education as you can.

THE Daily Crossword By June J. Borli

ACROSS

- Coin opening
- Trinidad
- School dance
- QWRT locale
- Scout
- Wander
- With opposing aims
- Alternative
- Indian
- Musical drama
- Aware of
- Nibble
- Hindu incarnation
- Covenant
- Pear
- Chap
- Ms West
- Facing a decision
- Chemin de
- Damp
- Food regimen
- Musical instrument
- Festidious
- Squirming
- Molce
- Mystery writers' award
- Appear suddenly
- Vase maker
- Period
- Have a confrontation
- Cure
- Musical stem
- bellum
- Unconscious
- Slant
- Broadway fight

DOWN

- Remain
- Far advanced
- Killer whale
- Paving material
- Clergyman
- Burning crime
- Hawser
- Big bird
- Patrol org.
- Appropriate
- Mrs. Kennedy
- Finished
- Tableland
- Mrs. Chaplin
- Yen
- Elevate
- Signs
- Toward the
- Ballot caster
- Houston
- Shut
- With full force
- Midshipman
- Inscrutable
- Saline
- Glowing pieces of coal
- Refrigerate
- Norse god
- Mean
- Scritch
- aimlessly
- Prepares for war
- Reef material
- Nymph who loved Narcissus
- Three-Ger.
- Arm
- Protracted
- 53 Eat
- 54 Premierer or Graham
- 55 West
- 57 Depot: abbr.
- 58 Was victorious
- 59 Pale

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

MAISIE TIAW APTIS
 ALEIC LOTIAH BLOUE
 SEIANE MOINE BLOUE
 NIELAIS TIOPIER
 SEER MAIT
 JAIL DESPAIR SHE
 SEASERPENT FIEES
 OWNED IDO URAIS
 KIOD SEASONABLE
 AIS VALLEYS TON
 BOBTAIL ESTIFFES
 OVER SCALLETICE
 GATE HAPER ETRE
 SLAW PEW STUO

U.S. will urge Belgium to deploy cruise missiles

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan meets Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens Monday in an attempt to strengthen his resolve to deploy U.S. cruise missiles even at the risk of electoral defeat.

A senior U.S. official said Washington thought there was only an outside chance of Mr. Martens' coalition losing the Belgian election in December if it accepts 48 missiles this March.

Mr. Martens is under pressure even from his own party to reverse the March deployment.

"In the three countries where deployment has begun, politicians and parties who supported it have continued to enjoy a measure of electoral success," the Reagan official said, referring to the medium-range cruise and Pershing-2 missiles recently placed in Britain, West Germany, and Italy.

"President Reagan will tell him (Mr. Martens) we hope and expect Belgium will live up to its part of the NATO decision, maintain the cohesion of the alliance and begin deployment in March," he said.

There appeared to be little sympathy in Washington for any backsliding by Brussels on a 1979 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) decision to

field the U.S. rockets in Europe to counter Soviet SS-20 missiles.

The Americans believe NATO determination to deploy despite intense Soviet pressure was a major factor in bringing Moscow back to arms talks, as agreed in Geneva by Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, and that alliance unity must not crack now.

The only noticeable U.S. support for Belgium's anti-cruise lobby, which includes leaders of Mr. Martens' own Social Christian Party, came from the nuclear weapons freeze campaign, which advertised in Belgian newspapers urging rejection of the weapons. Leaders sought a meeting here with Mr. Martens but conceded their chances were slim.

"Most Americans agree with most Belgians that we don't want any more deployment," said campaign spokeswoman Marguerite Beck-Rex. "Our president should heed the wisdom of the Belgian people."

The Anti-Nuclear Movement,

although claiming the support of 80 per cent of Americans, has little influence with the administration, particularly following Mr. Reagan's re-election landslide last November.

U.S. officials hope Mr. Martens will be strengthened by the Dutch government's apparent determination to go ahead with its cruise deployment next November.

Of the five NATO allies that decided in principle in 1979 to deploy a total of 572 missiles, only Belgium and the Netherlands, each of which was to accept 48 cruise missiles, have yet to implement the plan.

The Netherlands has decided to accept its cruise allocation if the Soviet-SS-20 force this November exceeded the 378 in place last June 1. The United States says the total is now 396.

Mr. Martens will meet Mr. Reagan in the White House Monday for formal talks followed by a working lunch. He will meet Mr. Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger separately in the afternoon.

Mr. Martens leaves Washington on Tuesday for private visits to Boston and New York.



DIPLOMAT KILLED: A photographer takes pictures of the dead body of Libyan diplomat Farag Omar Makhyoun holding his gun after being killed by unidentified gunmen early Sunday. He may have wounded one of his assailants in a gunfight before falling to the ground (AP wirephoto)

Weinberger: MX defeat could hurt arms talks

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said a congressional vote to kill the MX nuclear missile would seriously impair the resumption of superpower arms talks.

In a television interview, he said also that the U.S. was determined to proceed this year with testing anti-satellite weapons, despite the U.S.-Soviet agreement earlier this week to restart the talks.

"If the MX is defeated by Congress, it would have an extremely adverse effect on the negotiations (and) would convince the Soviets that they did not have to make any reduction concessions at all," he said.

Mr. Weinberger said the United States did not consider President Reagan's controversial space-based defence initiative, known as "Star Wars", to be an arms programme.

"It is a system designed to destroy arms. It is not a weapons system," he said, adding: "I don't think that our proceeding with the Strategic Defence Initiative in any sense can be considered participating in an arms race."

Echoing other U.S. officials, he said a desire to block the U.S. initiative was a major reason behind the Soviet Union's agreement to resume the talks, after walking out 13 months ago.

During preliminary discussions in Geneva, the superpowers agreed to negotiate weapons that would be used in space, as well as strategic and intermediate range nuclear weapons.

Congress is scheduled to vote in March whether to let the Pentagon spend \$1.5 billion in 1985 for 21 MX missiles.

Some political observers believe the 1984 election made it more likely the Senate will vote to kill the 10-warhead weapon, although others say the decision to resume formal arms talks has strengthened the case for proceeding with the MX, at least for a little longer.

27 die in Bangladesh train fire

DHAKA (R) — At least 27 people died and 50 were injured Sunday when fire destroyed three coaches of an express train at Bheramara, about 320 kilometres from here, Communications Ministry officials said.

They told Reuters the cause of the fire was not yet known but could have been an electrical short circuit.

The train entered Bheramara station with three rear coaches blazing.

U.S. military chief visits Wall of China

PEKING (R) — U.S. Armed Forces Chief General John Vessey Sunday launched a week-long familiarisation tour of China's military establishment by inspecting its oldest line of defence — the Great Wall of China.

Gen. Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived Saturday to begin what is billed a "getting to know you visit" and immediately held 90-minute talks on undisclosed subjects with his opposite number, Yang Dezhi.

Clad in a thick U.S. army parka against the freezing cold, Gen. Vessey Sunday reported back to the Pentagon on a portable radio telephone from the top of a renovated section of the 2,000-year-old wall near Peking.

The general was due to discuss more up-to-date issues with Defence Minister Zhang Aiping Sunday evening and continue his talks with Yang.

Gen. Vessey said at a banquet speech Saturday night that President Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger fully supported the goals of the visit and wanted a full report on his return.

"We recognise the progress you and other leaders are making in the modernisation of your forces," Gen. Vessey told Yang.

According to the U.S. Defence Department, Gen. Vessey and the head of U.S. Pacific Forces Admiral William Crowe aim on this visit to get better acquainted with China's military leaders and defence posture, not to sell arms.

China is committed however to turning its ill-equipped four-million-strong army into a leaner, more sophisticated force and Western diplomats said the talks may touch on the issue of U.S. help in re-arming China.

While the United States restricts exports of some high technology military hardware to Peking, the administration has argued that a stronger China may favourably affect the global balance of forces.

The New York Times reported Sunday that Washington had reached a preliminary agreement with Peking over the sale of anti-submarine warfare equipment.

The paper quoted an unnamed Reagan administration official as saying a formal agreement to sell China submarine detection devices, torpedoes and "ship defence" weapons was expected when Melvyn R. Paisley, the assistant secretary of the navy for research and engineering, visits China later this month.

One Western diplomat told Reuters that although cooperation still seemed to be at a talking stage, the navy was one area where Peking was interested in concrete action.

Communist Party Leader Hu Yaobang has already approved in principle a ceremonial visit by U.S. ships to Chinese ports and this may be on Gen. Vessey's agenda, he said.

Diplomats said Washington was cautious not to supply China with weapons that might be used offensively against nationalist-ruled Taiwan, as top leader Deng Xiaoping says he has not ruled out the use of force to reunite China.

Yang referred at Saturday night's banquet to Sino-U.S. differences, saying: "There are still difficulties and obstacles on the way of developing the relations between our two countries. This should be treated seriously."

But he said that as long as both sides stuck to the compromise worked out in a series of joint communiqués they could gradually develop their relations.

Gen. Vessey is the most senior U.S. officer to visit China in 30 years.

Danish Queen criticised over remarks

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Queen Margrethe II has run into unprecedented public criticism for chiding her 5 million subjects about their attitude toward immigrants flowing into Denmark's welfare society.

Most newspapers praised the 44-year-old monarch for urging patience and understanding toward the growing waves of newcomers in her traditional New Year's Eve speech.

But their letters columns soon filled with comments telling the Queen in varying degrees of tact to keep quiet about things she knows nothing about.

"Oh, how easy it is for privileged people like the Queen to appeal for understanding toward that uninhibited stream of refugees," Niels Kristiansen wrote to the newspaper B.T.

The comments are part of a growing flap over a liberal Danish immigration law that allows virtually anyone who declares himself a political refugee into the country and supports him at public expense until his asylum case is reviewed.

More than 4,000 mainly Iranian asylum-seekers have poured into Denmark since the law's enactment in October 1983.

The popular Queen, seldom ever criticised by the public, broke tradition in her New Year speech by taking up such a current issue in concrete terms, warning her subjects against so-called "Danish humour and small, dumb-smart remarks ... that aren't far from chicanery and rougher methods" of racism.

The Queen reminded Danes that they at first tend to accept immigrants "and maybe are a bit proud that they chose our little paradise."

Mourning declared in New Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — Kanak militants and white settlers declared mourning for their dead Sunday in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, clamped under a state of emergency after racial strife.

They issued their call as France prepared to fly in 1,000 extra police to help enforce the emergency imposed Saturday after three killings brought the death toll over the past two months to 19.

The militants, seeking independence on their own terms, said there should be three days of mourning for two of their leaders, Eloi Machoro and Aïde Marcel Nommaro, who were shot dead by police Saturday.

"They gave their lives for liberty," said the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), which represents militant Kanaks, the indigenous Melanesian population.

For their part, the settlers declared a day of mourning for Yves Tual, 17, son of a white farmer, killed on Friday by a shot fired from a forest 80 kilometres from the capital, Noumea.

Police are questioning three Kanaks in connection with the killing.

A day of national mourning was called for by Dick Ukeive, president of the Territorial Assembly run by the white-dominated anti-independence RPCR Party.

Both sides asked supporters to be on their guard, with the mayor of Noumea, where most of the territory's 60,000 French settlers live, warning them to be vigilant.

Residents began cleaning up after 24 hours of rioting by settlers in central Noumea, where a dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed.

Nicaraguan rebels get arms from Israel, neighbours

NEW YORK (R) — Israel, Honduras and El Salvador have taken over the role of the United States as the main suppliers of arms and support for rebels fighting the Sandinist government in Nicaragua, the New York Times said Sunday.

The paper, quoting unnamed Reagan administration sources, said Honduras has become a major supplier of bullets, El Salvador was allowing the rebels to operate their small air force from Salvadoran bases, and Israel was sending Soviet arms and ammunition captured in Lebanon.

Their way into our language and living pattern, then our hospitality begins to fade, and both sides feel disappointed.

Many Danes reacted positively, but others produced a wave of negative letters to newspapers and the Royal Amalienborg Palace and phone calls to public-run Radio Denmark.

Undaunted, Queen Margrethe announced a few days later that, from next year, she would begin inviting representatives of immigrant and foreign worker organisations to her annual New Year's party at the palace.

The latest spark in the controversy came last Thursday when a newly established immigration appeals board, in its first session since enactment of the law, upheld asylum status for two Iranians and ordered them out of the country.

Prince, Lauper and Turner tie for Grammy nominations

LOS ANGELES (R) — American pop stars Prince, Cindy Lauper and Tina Turner have received five nominations each for the annual Grammy Awards — the recording industry's equivalent of the Oscars. Grammy winners will be announced on Feb. 26 in a televised show broadcast to nearly two dozen countries. There was no clear frontrunner for top honours for the year ending last Sept. 30.

Michael Jackson who won eight awards last year got one nomination this time, for the video based on his best-selling Thriller album. Prince, Lauper and Turner are competing against each other in one of the most-coveted awards, Album of the Year, along with Lionel Richie and Bruce Springsteen.

Hawaii couple plays matchmaker

HONOLULU, Hawaii (AP) — Cherry Blossoms and Lotus Blossoms, magazines which arrange correspondence courtships, are doing a booming business linking Asian women seeking "physical, financial and emotional security" with American men seeking wives, an editor says. From their mountaintop home on the island of Hawaii, John Broussard, 60, and his wife, Kelly Pomeroy, 45, have helped arrange such courtships for the past 10 years. They began with Cherry Blossoms and added Lotus Blossoms to handle overflow requests.

Vietnamese preparing for fresh attacks

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — Vietnamese troops, fresh from their victory at Ampil, are gearing for new attacks on Kampuchean guerrilla camps in the next few days. Thai military officials said Sunday.

They told reporters there was a full Sunday in the area where Vietnamese last Tuesday drove guerrillas out of their headquarters at Ampil. Kampuchea, 60 kilometres from here.

Maj. Gen. Salya Sripen, com-

mander of Thai eastern border forces, said the Vietnamese might also attack the headquarters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's guerrilla faction 150 kilometres north east of this Thai border town.

Gen. Salya said Vietnam was expected to attack another KPNLF camp opposite the Thai village of Samor Cha-Ngan in the next few days.

Vietnam marked the sixth anniversary of its overthrow of the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge government in Kampuchea by attacking Ampil. Western diplomats

estimate Hanoi has between 160,000 and 180,000 troops in Kampuchea.

The KPNLF, the main target of Vietnamese attacks during the current dry-season offensive against guerrillas, has lost most of its border bases in the past two months.

Son Sanna, leader of the non-Communist group, told a news conference last Friday that attempts to recapture Ampil had been abandoned in favour of hit-and-run raids in order to inflict maximum losses.

Brazil to choose first civilian leader in 21 years

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil will get its first civilian president after 21 years of military rule when the country's Electoral College votes on Tuesday for a leader to replace Gen. Joao Figueiredo.

Newspapers predict that Tancredino Neves, 74, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) will win a majority in the Electoral College vote ahead of the military-backed candidate Paulo Maluf, 53, former governor of Sao Paulo State.

Both men have said they would rewrite the country's constitution to allow for a direct presidential election instead of the present indirect Electoral College poll that was imposed after the military takeover in 1964.

The successful candidate requires only a simple majority in the 686-member college which is made up of senators, federal deputies from the country's Lower House and representatives from state assemblies.

The new president will take office on March 15 when Gen. Figueiredo steps down after a six-year term. He will inherit the developing world's biggest foreign debt of about \$100 billion, annual inflation of more than 200 per cent and widespread unemployment.

Officials of Mr. Neves' PMDB, the main opposition grouping, are confident he will get the necessary 344 votes to win within two hours of the college opening for voting.

The party has 273 members in the college. Neves also has backing from 52 delegates from smaller opposition parties and an increasing number of defectors from his rival's Social Democratic Party.

Mr. Maluf has been dogged dur-

ing the election campaign by accusations of corruption.

Mr. Neves has praised the armed forces for cooperating in the transition to civilian rule and democracy and has said that his priorities would include fighting unemployment and poverty and improving health care.

Economists have warned that whoever takes over will have the tough task of reconciling popular expectations of a better life with Brazil's cold economic reality.

A sign of the problems Brazil's new leader will face was a clash in Sao Paulo State on Friday between police and sugar workers striking for higher wages and guaranteed jobs. Seventeen people were injured, seven by bullets.

In two years from 1981 nearly half-a-million workers lost their jobs in the state, Brazil's manufacturing centre.

Brazil has signed a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) promising sharp cuts in money supply this year in a bid to reduce inflation.

Mr. Neves has promised to maintain relations with the IMF but his party has said he should consider a debt moratorium unless a ceiling of six per cent is placed on interest payments.

The presidential contender has said Brazil's problem is not the size of its debt but fluctuations in interest rates. He also said he would cut down on the grandiose projects of previous military administrations.

The projects have helped transform Brazil from a largely agricultural society dependent on coffee exports into a sophisticated, industrial economy, although little of the wealth has reached ordinary people.

Kennedy may urge S. Africa sanctions

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Senator Edward Kennedy says he is sure he can persuade his colleagues in the U.S. Senate to enact legislation aimed against South Africa.

In an interview with Reuters aboard the chartered aircraft he is using to tour the country, meeting mainly opposition leaders, Sen. Kennedy said: "There is great focus on the issue of South Africa at the present time, among both Democrats and Republicans."

Sen. Kennedy would not detail what sanctions against the white-minority government he would seek when he returns home. He said he was still devising an exact formula of economic pressure which might be applied to encourage reform of South Africa's apartheid system of racial segregation.

A member of the Kennedy party suggested that any sanctions sought would be conditional or escalating, according to whether the South African government undertook certain reforms, such as an end to the forced resettlement of blacks.

Sen. Kennedy said white South Africans frequently said they did not care what foreigners, especially Americans, thought of them, "but they care very much, very deeply."

He told reporters that during his eight-day visit he had seen symbols of "some of the grossest inhumanity of man."

He spoke after visiting people who had been detained by South African Security Forces in Namibia (South West Africa), which Pretoria rules in defiance of the United Nations.

Sen. Kennedy said he did not believe the government was set on a course of meaningful reform, as its ministers claimed to him in meetings this week.

Such reforms would include full citizenship for the black 73 per cent of the population, an end to forced resettlement and to controls on the number of blacks allowed in urban areas.

He said it was necessary to change the current U.S. policy of "constructive engagement" toward South Africa. This policy was engendering an ever greater feeling of anti-Americanism among government opponents, both black and white.

Under the controversial Reagan administration policy, Washington has muted its criticism of South Africa's racial policies in hopes of better being able to encourage reform.

But Sen. Kennedy said U.S. officials were insensitive to the anger this provoked, as many perceived the U.S. government to be friendly to the Pretoria regime.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♠AKQ8762 ♠953 ♠72
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q763 ♠KQ85 ♠A972 ♠A
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A8752 ♠AK83 ♠AK72
Partner opens the bidding with three hearts. What do you bid now?
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J762 ♠9 ♠K8753 ♠J95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Dble ?
What action do you take?
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q63 ♠872 ♠J762 ♠732
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 NT Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♠A83 ♠A1076 ♠QJ85
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Dble 2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?